



Hales, C. A., Bartlett, J. M., Arban, R., Hengerer, B., & Robinson, E. S. J. (2020). Role of the medial prefrontal cortex in the effects of rapid acting antidepressants on decision-making biases in rodents. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 45, 2278–2288(2020).  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-020-00797-3>

Peer reviewed version

Link to published version (if available):  
[10.1038/s41386-020-00797-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-020-00797-3)

[Link to publication record in Explore Bristol Research](#)  
PDF-document

This is the author accepted manuscript (AAM). The final published version (version of record) is available online via Springer Nature at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-020-00797-3> . Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.

## University of Bristol - Explore Bristol Research

### General rights

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the reference above. Full terms of use are available:  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-policy/pure/user-guides/ebr-terms/>

1   **Title: Role of the medial prefrontal cortex in the effects of rapid acting**  
2   **antidepressants on decision-making biases in rodents**

3   **Running title: Rapid antidepressant effects on decision-making biases**

4   **Author names:** Hales CA<sup>1</sup> (PhD), Bartlett JM<sup>1</sup> (BSc), Arban R<sup>2</sup> (PhD), Hengerer B<sup>2</sup> (PhD),  
5   Robinson ESJ<sup>1</sup> (PhD)

6   **Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Faculty of  
7   Biomedical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1TD, UK

8   <sup>2</sup>CNS Diseases Research, Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH & Co. KG, Biberach an der Riss,  
9   Germany

10   **Corresponding author:** Name: Prof. Emma Robinson  
11   Email: [emma.s.j.robinson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:emma.s.j.robinson@bristol.ac.uk)  
12   Address: School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Faculty of Biomedical  
13   Sciences, Tankards Close, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1TD, UK.  
14   Telephone: (+44)117 3311449

## 15    **Abstract**

16    Major Depressive Disorder is a significant and costly cause of global disability. Until the  
17    discovery of the rapid acting antidepressant (RAAD) effects of ketamine, treatments were  
18    limited to drugs that have delayed clinical benefits. The mechanism of action of ketamine is  
19    currently unclear but one hypothesis is that it may involve neuropsychological effects  
20    mediated through modulation of affective biases (where cognitive processes such as  
21    learning and memory and decision-making are modified by emotional state). Previous work  
22    has shown that affective biases in a rodent decision-making task are differentially altered by  
23    ketamine, compared to conventional, delayed onset antidepressants. This study sought to  
24    further investigate these effects by comparing ketamine with other NMDA antagonists using  
25    this decision-making task. We also investigated the subtype selective GluN2B antagonist,  
26    CP-101,606 and muscarinic antagonist scopolamine which have both been shown to have  
27    RAAD effects. Both CP-101,606 and scopolamine induced similar positive biases in  
28    decision-making to ketamine, but the same effects were not seen with other NMDA  
29    antagonists. Using targeted medial prefrontal cortex (mPFC) infusions, these effects were  
30    localised to the mPFC. In contrast, the GABA<sub>A</sub> agonist, muscimol, induced general  
31    disruptions to behaviour. These data suggest that ketamine and other RAADs mediate a  
32    specific effect on affective bias which involves the mPFC. Non-ketamine NMDA antagonists  
33    lacked efficacy and we also found that temporary inactivation of the mPFC did not fully  
34    recapitulate the effects of ketamine, suggesting a specific mechanism.

## 35    **Introduction**

36    Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is a prevalent psychiatric disorder, affecting over 300  
37    million people globally<sup>1</sup>. It is the leading worldwide cause of disability, and, until recently,  
38    pharmacological treatments were limited to drugs that take weeks to improve symptoms and  
39    subjective reporting of mood<sup>2</sup>. The discovery of the rapid acting antidepressant (RAAD)  
40    effects of ketamine, an NMDA receptor antagonist, has rejuvenated the field by  
41    demonstrating that subjective changes in mood in depressed patients can be seen less than  
42    2 hours following administration and are sustained for at least 7 days in some patients<sup>3</sup>.  
43    Although this RAAD has been shown repeatedly<sup>4,5, 6,7,8</sup>, the mechanism underlying this effect  
44    is unclear, and better understanding could be critical for the development of new, fast-acting  
45    treatments.

46    Patients with MDD exhibit affective biases, whereby impairments in emotional processing  
47    leads to reduced positive and/or enhanced negative biases in multiple cognitive domains,  
48    including attention, memory, emotional interpretation and decision-making<sup>9,10,11</sup>. In humans,  
49    acute (and chronic) treatment with conventional antidepressants induces positive biases in  
50    emotional memory and recognition in healthy controls<sup>12,13,14</sup> and patients<sup>15</sup>, despite a lack of  
51    subjectively reported change in mood. It has been suggested that similar affective biases  
52    can also be measured in non-human animals using learning and memory tasks<sup>16</sup> and in  
53    decision making under ambiguity (first demonstrated by Harding et al.<sup>17</sup> using a judgement  
54    bias task). For review and more detailed discussion of translational studies of affective  
55    biases see Robinson and Roiser<sup>18</sup>. Judgement bias tasks (also known as cognitive bias  
56    tasks, or ambiguous cue interpretation tasks) were first developed as a cognitive test to  
57    measure animal affect (see reviews by Mendl et al.<sup>19</sup> and Roelofs et al.<sup>20</sup>). In the task,  
58    animals are trained to associate the presentation two distinct reference cues with two  
59    differently valenced outcomes (e.g. positive: reward/high reward, or negative/less positive:  
60    punishment/low reward). After training, individuals are presented with untrained, ambiguous  
61    cue(s), and responses to these are measured to see whether they respond with a positive or

negative bias (more responses matching the positive or negative choice respectively). A recent systemic review and meta-analysis across judgement bias tasks in animals has shown that across 20 published research articles, pharmacological manipulations to induce changes in affective state overall did alter decision making about ambiguous cues as predicted<sup>21</sup>, demonstrating the validity of these types of tasks. In previous work in rodents in our lab using a reward-based judgement bias task (first reported by Hales et al.<sup>22</sup>), decision making biases were differentially altered by conventional, delayed acting antidepressants versus the RAAD ketamine<sup>24</sup>. In this task, where reference cues are associated with more or less positive outcomes<sup>22-24</sup>, we found that an acute, low dose of ketamine, but not acute treatment with another NMDA receptor antagonist, PCP, immediately induced more optimistic decision making, the direction that would be induced by a more positive affective state, whereas acute treatment with conventional antidepressants had no effect on bias<sup>24</sup>. However, when given chronically, the conventional antidepressant fluoxetine did induce a positive bias<sup>24</sup>, but only over a timescale similar to the drugs' efficacy in patients, as measured by self-reported improvements in symptoms and mood<sup>25</sup>. The same pattern was also seen in this task with negative affective states, where a chronic stress manipulation, but not an acute stressor, induced more pessimistic decision making at later timepoints<sup>22</sup>.

The aim of this study was to build upon these findings by testing a selection of other drugs that act via NMDA receptor antagonism: lanicemine, a low-trapping NMDA receptor channel blocker developed for the treatment of MDD, but failed to show efficacy in clinical trials<sup>26</sup>; memantine, an Alzheimer's medication that is a moderate affinity, non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist, but also lacked antidepressant efficacy in clinical trials<sup>5,27</sup>; and MK-801, a potent, non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist that has shown RAAD efficacy in animal models<sup>28</sup>. We also tested other compounds that have been shown to have RAAD in human clinical trials: the GluN2B subunit selective NMDA receptor antagonist CP-101,606<sup>29</sup>, and the acetylcholine muscarinic receptor antagonist scopolamine<sup>30</sup>. We also tested additional doses of ketamine and PCP to ensure we had examined effects across a wider

89 range of receptor occupancy and in line with doses commonly used in preclinical animal  
90 models used to study depression<sup>31</sup>. To investigate the mechanism underlying the rapid  
91 positive change in decision-making bias we tested local administration of drugs shown to  
92 cause this effect directly into the prefrontal cortex (PFC), a brain area thought to be critical in  
93 the mechanism of RAAD of ketamine<sup>32,33</sup> and previously shown to modulate learning biases  
94 in rodents<sup>34</sup>.

## 95 **Materials and Methods**

### 96 *Animals and apparatus*

97 Three cohorts of male Lister Hooded rats (each cohort n=16) were used (Envigo, UK). Rats  
98 were pair-housed with environmental enrichment, consisting of a red 3 mm Perspex house  
99 (30x10x17cm), a large cardboard tube (10cm diameter), a wood chew block (9x2.5x2.5cm)  
100 and a rope tied across the cage lid (the rope was not present in cages for cohort 3 post-  
101 surgery to avoid any possibility of implanted cannula getting caught). Animals were kept  
102 under temperature (19-23°C) and humidity (45-65%) controlled conditions on a 12-h reverse  
103 lighting cycle (lights off at 08:00h). Water was available *ad libitum* in the home cage, but rats  
104 were maintained at no less than 90% of their free-feeding body weight, matched to a  
105 standard growth curve, by restricting access to laboratory chow (LabDiet, PMI Nutrition  
106 International) to ~18g per rat per day. All procedures were carried out under local  
107 institutional guidelines (University of Bristol Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board) and  
108 in accordance with the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Rats weighed 270-305  
109 g (cohort 1) / 250-295 g (cohort 2) / 240-290 g (cohort 3) at the start of training, and 400-465  
110 g (cohort 1) / 360-460 g (cohort 2) / 320-380 g (cohort 3) by the start of experimental  
111 manipulations. During experiments all efforts were made to minimise suffering including  
112 using a low stress method of drug administration<sup>35</sup>, and at the end of experiments rats were  
113 killed by giving an overdose of sodium pentobarbitone (200mg/kg). Behavioural testing was  
114 carried out between 0800 and 1800h, using standard rat operant chambers (Med  
115 Associates, Sandown Scientific, UK) as previously described<sup>22,24</sup>. Operant chambers  
116 (30.5x24.1x21.0cm) used for behavioural testing were housed inside a light-resistant and  
117 sound-attenuating box. They were equipped with two retractable response levers positioned  
118 on each side of the centrally located food magazine. The magazine had a house light (28V,  
119 100mA) located above it. An audio generator (ANL-926, Med Associates, Sandown  
120 Scientific, UK) produced tones that were delivered to each chamber via a speaker positioned

above the left lever. Operant chambers and audio generators were controlled using K-Limbic software (Conclusive Solutions Ltd., UK).

### *Judgement bias training*

Animals were trained and tested using a high versus low reward version of the judgement bias task as previously reported<sup>22,24</sup>. Rats were first trained to associate one tone (2kHz at 83dB rats, designated high reward) with a high value reward (four 45mg reward pellets; TestDiet, Sandown Scientific, UK) and the other tone (8kHz at 66dB, designated low reward) with a low value reward (one 45mg reward pellet) if they pressed the associated lever (either left or right, counterbalanced across rats) during the 20s tone (see Figure 1 for a detailed depiction of the task). Unless otherwise specified in Table S1, response levers were extended at the beginning of every session and remained extended for the duration of the session (maximum one hour for all session types). All trials were self-initiated via a head entry into the magazine, followed by an intertrial interval (ITI), and then presentation of the tone. Pressing the incorrect lever during a tone was punished by a 10s timeout, as was an omission if the rat failed to press any lever during the 20s tone. Lever presses during the ITI were punished by a 10s timeout. During a timeout, the house light was illuminated, and responses made on levers were recorded but had no programmed consequences.

Animals underwent a graduated training, and were required to meet criteria for at least two consecutive days before progressing to the next stage. Training stages were as follows:

- 1) Magazine training: tone played for 20s followed by release of one pellet into magazine. Criteria: 20 pellets eaten for each tone frequency.
- 2) Tone training: response on lever during tone rewarded with one pellet. Only one tone frequency, and one lever available per session. Criteria: >50 trials completed.
- 3) Discrimination training: response on correct corresponding lever only during tone rewarded with one pellet. Both tones played (pseudorandomly) and both levers available. Criteria: >70% accuracy for both tones, <1:1 ratio of correct:premature



147 responses and no significant difference on any behavioural measures analysed over  
148 three sessions.

149 4) Reward magnitude training: As for discrimination training but 2kHz tone now  
150 rewarded with four pellets, 8kHz tone rewarded with one pellet. Criteria: as for  
151 discrimination training but with >60% accuracy for both tones.

152 All training sessions consisted of a maximum of 100 trials. Table S1 contains full details of  
153 training stages and criteria used. Rats were considered trained when they maintained stable  
154 responding for three consecutive days. This was after a maximum of 29 sessions for cohort  
155 1, 25 sessions for cohort 2, and 25 sessions for cohort 3 (see Table S1 for details of session  
156 numbers for each training stage).

#### 157 *Judgement bias testing*

158 Baseline sessions (100 trials: 50 high and 50 low reward tones; presented pseudorandomly,  
159 for details see Table S1) were conducted on Monday and Thursday. Probe test sessions  
160 (120 trials: 40 high reward, 40 low reward, and 40 ambiguous midpoint tones that were 5kHz  
161 at 75dB; pseudorandomly, for details see Table S1) were conducted on Tuesday and Friday.  
162 The midpoint tone was randomly reinforced whereby 50% of trials had outcomes as for the  
163 high reward tone, and 50% had outcomes as for the low reward tone. This was to ensure a  
164 specific outcome could not be learnt, and to maintain responding throughout the experiments  
165 (see Figure 1 and Table S1 for a detailed description of how this was implemented). Cohort  
166 1 were used to test the effect of acute systemic treatments with putative RAAD and other  
167 NMDA receptor antagonists. Cohort 2 were made up of two groups of eight rats that had  
168 previously been used as control animals in another experiment (data not shown) and were  
169 then used for the extension of doses of ketamine and PCP. Cohort 3 were used for mPFC  
170 infusion experiments. For further details of the different treatments received by each cohort  
171 see Table S2.

*Study 1: the effect of acute, systemic treatments with RAADs and NMDA receptors antagonists on judgement bias.*

**Experimental design:** Each study used a within-subject fully counterbalanced drug treatment schedule (see Table S2 for details of individual treatments). The study design followed the same procedures as used in our earlier work characterising the effects of ketamine in the JBT<sup>24</sup>. We also included a replication study with systemic ketamine in our infusion cohort in order to confirm similar systemic effects before proceeding to the infusion studies. Each animal received all doses for any given treatment in a counter-balanced design with drug doses separated by a minimum of 72 hrs and at least a one-week drug free period between different treatments. There is the potential for compensatory changes to develop due to repeated testing and the drug treatments, but these are minimised by managing washout periods and also recording and analysing the animals' baseline data in between drug studies. We are aware of the increasing evidence that ketamine, and potentially the other treatments tested, can have long lasting effects<sup>36</sup> which may not fully reverse over this dosing schedule. The counterbalanced design does mitigate the risks of any bias of these schedules on the results but there may be carryover effects which could influence the main findings. We carry out analysis of the between treatment baseline sessions (data shown in Table S3-S6) and these analyses do not suggest that the behavioural parameters we measure were affected for any of the cohorts over time. All drugs were given by intraperitoneal injection using a low-stress, non-restrained technique<sup>35</sup>. Ketamine<sup>¶</sup> (Sigma-Aldrich, UK), scopolamine<sup>§</sup> (Tocris, UK), lanicemine<sup>¶</sup> (Sigma Aldrich, UK), memantine<sup>¶</sup> (Tocris, UK), MK-801<sup>§</sup> (Tocris, UK) and PCP<sup>¶</sup> (Sigma Aldrich, UK) were dissolved in 0.9% sterile saline and given 30<sup>§</sup> or 60<sup>¶</sup> minutes prior to testing. CP-101,606 (Experiment 1: Sigma Aldrich, UK; Experiment 2: Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH) was dissolved in 5% DMSO, 10% cremaphor and 85% sterile saline and given 60 minutes prior to testing. Drug doses were selected based on previous rodent behavioural studies<sup>24,37</sup>. Doses for ketamine and PCP were chosen to extend the range of doses tested in this task

e.g. higher doses of ketamine and lower doses of PCP were used than previously<sup>24</sup>. For all studies, the experimenter was blind to drug dose. The order of testing for each cohort is displayed in Table S2.

#### *Study 2: mPFC cannulation and infusions*

**mPFC cannulation:** To localize the site and mechanism of action of RAAD drugs, rats were implanted with mPFC guide cannula. Rats were anaesthetised with isoflurane/O<sub>2</sub> and secured in a stereotaxic frame. Bilateral 32-gauge guide cannulae (Plastics One, UK) were implanted in the mPFC according to the stereotaxic coordinates: anteroposterior +2.7mm, lateral  $\pm 0.75$ mm and dorsoventral -2.0mm from bregma<sup>38</sup>. The cannulae were secured to the skull with gentamicin bone cement (DePuy CMW, UK) and stainless steel screws (Plastics One, UK). Animals received long acting local anaesthetic during surgery, and after surgery the animals were housed individually for 2-3 hours then allowed 10-13 days recovery in normal paired housing conditions. Following the recovery period, rats underwent one week of baseline sessions to re-establish performance. Following this, one week of probe testing was carried out to check that judgement of the ambiguous tone had not altered after surgery. Based on this, another two weeks of probe testing (4 test sessions) was then conducted.

**Systemic ketamine:** Following this, an acute systemic treatment with ketamine was given as a positive control manipulation to ensure that bias could still be manipulated post-surgery. This study was a within-subject fully counterbalanced design, with two treatments (see Table S2, top row of section 3), with the experimenter blind to drug dose. Ketamine (1.0 mg/kg, Sigma Aldrich, UK) was dissolved in 0.9% sterile saline vehicle (0.0 mg/kg) and was given by intraperitoneal injection using a low-stress, non-restrained technique<sup>35</sup> 60 minutes prior to testing.

**Infusion Procedure:** Rats were then used for mPFC infusion experiments. For details of the infusion procedure. Rats were habituated to the infusion procedure during one session

where animals were lightly restrained and the cannula dummy removed and then replaced. In a second habituation session animals were gently restrained while the cannula dummy was removed and a 33-gauge bilateral injector extending 2.5mm beyond the length of the guide cannula was inserted into the mPFC. This was left in place for two minutes, but no infusion occurred. During experimental infusions, the rats were gently restrained while the cannula dummy was removed and the injector inserted. The injector was left in place for 1 min prior to infusions of vehicle or drug (1.0µl total volume) over 2 minutes. The injector was left in place for a further 2 minutes to allow diffusion of the drug into the tissue surrounding the injector, and then the injector was removed and the dummy replaced. The ambiguous probe test session occurred 5 minutes after the dummy was replaced.

**Infusion experiments:** In the first infusion experiment vehicle (sterile phosphate-buffered saline (PBS); 0.0µg/µl), ketamine (1.0µg/µl), muscimol (0.1µg/µl) or scopolamine (0.1µg/µl), all dissolved in sterile PBS, were infused intracerebrally into mPFC 5 minutes before testing. Following this, CP-101,606 (1.0µg/µl in the first study, 3.0µg/µl in the second study) was dissolved in 10% 2-hydroxypropyl-cyclodextrin and 90% PBS and tested. All experiments used a within-subject fully counterbalanced design for drug treatments, with the experimenter blind to treatment. Drug doses were chosen based on the results from acute, systemic treatments (see Table S2).

**Histology:** Following the completion of mPFC infusions, rats were killed and brains were fixed and processed for histology. Rats were anaesthetised with a lethal dose of sodium pentobarbitone (0.5ml Euthatal, 200mg/ml, Genus Express, UK) and perfused via the left ventricle with 0.01M PBS followed by 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA). The brains were removed and post-fixed in 4% PFA for 24 hours. Prior to being cut, brains were transferred to 30% sucrose in 0.1M PBS and left for 2 days until brains were no longer floating. Coronal sections were cut at 40µm on a freezing microtome and stained with Cresyl Violet. Locations of the injector tip positions in the mPFC were mapped onto standardised coronal sections of a rat brain stereotaxic atlas<sup>38</sup> (Figure 3).

252 *Data and statistical analysis*

253 Sample size was estimated based on our previous studies using the JBT<sup>22,24</sup> but with a more  
254 conservative effect size as we were looking at acute rather than chronic effects and  
255 expected to see greater variation in mPFC infusion studies. Changes in judgement bias  
256 should occur without effects on other variables and therefore strict inclusion criteria were  
257 established to reduce any potential confound in the data analysis. Only animals which  
258 maintained more than 60% accuracy for each reference tone, and less than 50% omissions  
259 were used for analysis.

260 Cognitive bias index (CBI) was used as a measure of judgement bias in response to the  
261 midpoint tone. CBI was calculated by subtracting the proportion of responses made on the  
262 low reward lever from the proportion of responses made on the high reward lever. This  
263 created a score between -1 and 1, where negative values represent a negative bias and  
264 positive values a positive bias. Change from baseline in CBI was then calculated for all  
265 experimental manipulations as follows: vehicle (0.0mg/kg) probe test CBI – drug dose probe  
266 test CBI. This was calculated to take into account individual differences in baseline bias, and  
267 to make directional changes caused by drug treatments clearer. To provide a value for  
268 vehicle probe test sessions for this measure, the population average for the vehicle  
269 (0.0mg/kg) probe test was taken away from each individual rats' CBI score for [this dose](#).  
270 This allowed this measure to be analysed with repeated measures analysis of variance  
271 (rmANOVA) with [drug dose](#) as the within-subjects factor for drug studies with more than two  
272 treatments, or paired samples t-test for studies with only two treatments. The raw data for  
273 CBI is included for all drug treatments in Figure [S1-S2](#).

274 Response latency and accuracy, omissions and premature responses were also analysed  
275 (see Table S8 for details of these). These measures were analysed with rmANOVAs with  
276 [drug dose](#) and tone as the within-subjects factors. Paired t-tests were performed as post-hoc  
277 tests if significant effects were established. Huynh-Feldt corrections were used to adjust for  
278 violations of the sphericity assumption, and Sidak correction was applied for multiple

279 comparisons. All statistical tests were conducted using SPSS 24.0.0.2 for Windows (IBM  
280 SPSS Statistics) with  $\alpha=0.05$ . Results are reported with the ANOVA F-value (degrees of  
281 freedom, error) and  $p$ -value as well as any post-hoc  $p$ -values. All graphs were made using  
282 Graphpad Prism 7.04 for Windows (Graphpad Software, USA).

## Results

### *Study 1: The effect of acute, systemic treatment with RAADs and selected NMDA receptor antagonists*

**CP-101,606:** One animal was excluded in experiments 1 and 2 as accuracy criteria was not met on the vehicle **drug dose**. In the initial dose response study, CP-101,606 treated animals did not overall show any change in CBI (no main effect of drug dose ( $F_{2,237,31.323}=0.811$ ,  $p=0.495$ ). Due to the possibility that there might be small change in CBI for the highest dose (3.0mg/kg; visual inspection of the data and one sample t-test (not corrected for multiple comparisons):  $p=0.038$ ; Figure 2A), we then tested a higher dose of CP-101,606 (6.0mg/kg) in the second experiment. This dose (6.0mg/kg) resulted in a positive bias relative to vehicle treatment (paired samples t-test:  $p=0.027$ ; Figure 2A). In experiment 1, 3.0mg/kg CP-101,606 also caused a decrease in response latency (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{3,42}=4.858$ ,  $p=0.005$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.027$ ; Table S7). There were no effects on other behavioural measures in experiment 1 (Table S7). In experiment 2, CP-101,606 (6.0mg/kg) caused response latencies to decrease (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,14}=27.396$ ,  $p<0.001$ ; Table S7). This dose had no effect on accuracy for the reference tones (Table S7), but did increase premature responses (paired samples t-test:  $p=0.001$ ), and reduced omissions (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,14}=10.506$ ,  $p=0.006$ ; Table S7).

**Scopolamine:** The highest dose tested (0.3mg/kg) had to be excluded from the analysis as most rats did not complete sufficient trials. Scopolamine (0.1mg/kg) induced a positive bias (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{2,30}=6.739$ ,  $p=0.004$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.035$ ; Figure 2B). This dose of scopolamine (0.1mg/kg) also increased response latencies (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{2,30}=17.263$ ,  $p<0.001$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.001$ ; Table S7), increased premature responding (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,355,20.330}=4.387$ ,  $p=0.039$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.047$ ; Table S7), and increased omissions for all tones (significant **drug dose**\*tone interaction:  $F_{2,343,35.150}=4.739$ ,  $p=0.011$ , main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{2,30}=24.257$ ,  $p<0.001$ , post-hoc:  $ps<0.001$ ; Table S7). The lower dose also caused response latencies to increase (post-hoc:  $p<0.001$ ; Table S7), accuracy to

310 increase (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,605,24.069}=8.558$ ,  $p=0.003$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.002$ ; Table  
311 **S7**), and omissions to increase for all tones (post-hoc:  $ps\leq 0.019$ ; Table **S7**).

312 **Ketamine**: In the rats who had undergone mPFC cannulation surgery, ketamine (1.0mg/kg)  
313 caused a positive change in CBI (paired samples t-test:  $p=0.033$ ; Figure **2C**), as has been  
314 seen previously<sup>24</sup>. Ketamine did not alter any other behavioural measures (Table **S7**).

315 **Lanicemine**: None of the doses of lanicemine tested caused a change in CBI (Figure **2D**).  
316 This drug also had no effect on any other behavioural measures (Table **S7**).

317 **Memantine**: Memantine did not cause any change in CBI at the doses tested (Figure **2E**).  
318 There was also no effect on other behavioural measures (Table **S7**).

319 **MK-801**: MK-801 did not change CBI (Figure **2F**). The highest dose of MK-801 tested  
320 (0.03mg/kg) decreased response **latencies** (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{2,30}=3.843$ ,  $p=0.033$ ;  
321 Table **S7**). There was no effect on accuracy for the reference tones, percentage omissions  
322 or **premature responding**.

323 **High-dose ketamine**: In experiment 2 (25mg/kg ketamine) one rat was excluded for failure  
324 to complete sufficient trials. In experiments 1 and 2, ketamine (10mg/kg and 25mg/kg  
325 respectively) did not change CBI (Figure **3A**). In both experiments these higher doses did  
326 alter all other behavioural measures. There was an increase in response latency across all  
327 three tones for both 10mg/kg (**drug dose**\*tone interaction:  $F_{2,30}=7.323$ ,  $p=0.003$ , post-hoc:  
328  $ps<0.001$  for all tones; Figure **3C**), and 25mg/kg ketamine (**drug dose**\*tone interaction:  
329  $F_{2,28}=4.686$ ,  $p=0.018$ , post-hoc:  $ps\leq 0.002$  for all tones; Figure **3C**). Both doses decreased  
330 premature responses (paired samples t-tests: 10mg/kg –  $p=0.005$ , 25mg/kg –  $p=0.006$ ;  
331 Figure **3E**). Ketamine also improved accuracy in experiment 1 (10mg/kg: main effect of **drug**  
332 **dose**:  $F_{1,15}=8.774$ ,  $p=0.010$ ; Figure **3B**) and **for the low reward tone in** experiment 2  
333 (25mg/kg: **drug dose**\*tone interaction:  $F_{1,14}=5.513$ ,  $p=0.034$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.033$ ; Figure  
334 **3B**). In both experiments, there was an increase in omissions for all three tones (experiment  
335 1, 10mg/kg: **drug dose**\*tone interaction:  $F_{1,401,21.021}=5.662$ ,  $p=0.018$ , post-hoc: high reward



tone –  $p=0.015$ , midpoint tone:  $p=0.003$ , low reward tone:  $p=0.010$ ; experiment 2, 25mg/kg:  
drug dose\*tone interaction:  $F_{1,368,19,150}=11.964$ ,  $p=0.001$ , post-hoc: high reward tone –  
 $p=0.003$ , midpoint tone –  $p<0.001$ , low reward tone –  $p=0.001$ ; Figure 3D).

**Low dose PCP:** Doses of PCP (0.03, 0.1, 0.3mg/kg) that were lower than those previously  
tested<sup>24</sup> did not cause any change in CBI (Figure 2G). There was also no effect on any other  
behavioural measures (Table S7).

**Analysis of performance split over session:** In addition to the analyses above we also  
compared performance for the first and last 20 probe trials in order to check whether  
animals' performance changed within a session during these randomly reinforced trials.  
Analysis of the data for doses of ketamine (1.0mg/kg), CP101606 (6.0mg/kg) and  
scopolamine (0.1mg/kg) which change CBI did not find any evidence of differences across  
the session between vehicle or drug treatments based on this analysis (see Figure S3).

#### *Study 2: mPFC infusions of drugs shown to cause positive judgement biases*

Two rats were excluded in cohort 3: one rat did not meet accuracy criteria for any probe (or  
baseline) session following the second drug infusion; and after the end of testing another  
animal was found to have an incorrect cannula placement. Therefore, both were excluded  
retrospectively from the entire study. Compared to pre-surgery performance, the CBI of rats  
became more negative after surgery, and this was stable across testing over three weeks  
(main effect of week:  $F_{3,42}=6.335$ ,  $p=0.001$ , post-hoc:  $ps\leq 0.011$ ; Figure 4A). There were no  
differences in response latencies, premature responses, accuracies for reference tones or  
omissions before compared to after surgery (Table S7). The change in CBI occurred before  
infusions and seemed to be a response to the surgical intervention potentially causing a  
more negative affective state. We found no evidence of tissue damage in the area  
surrounding the cannula post-mortem, so it is unlikely that this was a result of trauma. We  
think it is not surprising that undergoing surgery and having to adapt to intracerebral cannula

could cause a permanent negative change in affect. It is exactly this sort of affective state change that judgement bias assays have been developed to detect (for example see Bethell<sup>39</sup>, and Baciadonna & McElligott<sup>40</sup> for reviews summarising how judgement bias tasks can be used as measure of animal welfare).

In the first infusion experiment, ketamine (1.0µg/µl), muscimol (0.1µg/µl) and scopolamine (0.1µg/µl) all induced positive biases (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{3,36}=7.241$ ,  $p=0.001$ ; post-hoc: ketamine –  $p=0.012$ , muscimol –  $p=0.001$ , scopolamine –  $p=0.032$  Figure 4C). The effect of PFC infusion of ketamine or scopolamine was specific to CBI, as these drugs had no effect on other behavioural measures (Figure 4D-G), unlike muscimol infusions which caused changes to all other behavioural measures. There was an increase in response latency (**drug dose**\*tone interaction:  $F_{6,72}=4.181$ ,  $p=0.001$ ) for the high reward (post-hoc:  $p<0.001$ ) and midpoint tone ( $p=0.028$ ; Figure 4E), and a large increase in premature responses to over 100% (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,151,13.809}=33.784$ ,  $p<0.001$ , post-hoc:  $p<0.001$ ; Figure 4G). Muscimol also caused accuracy to decrease (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,181,14.172}=43.775$ ,  $p<0.001$ , post-hoc:  $p\leq 0.001$ ; Figure 4D). For the low reward tone, this reduction was so great that rats were no longer performing any better than chance (one-sample t-test against a test value of 50%:  $p=0.197$ ; Figure 4D). Omissions increased following muscimol infusion (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,338,16.057}=10.418$ ,  $p=0.003$ , post-hoc:  $p=0.007$ ; Figure 4F).

In the experiments testing the effect of CP-101,606 mPFC infusion, in experiment 1 the lower dose (1.0µg/µl) did not alter CBI (Figure 5A), but in experiment 2, the higher dose (3.0µg/µl) induced a positive bias (paired samples t-test:  $p=0.043$ ; Figure 5A). In experiment 1, CP-101,606 (1.0µg/µl) caused an increase in response latency (main effect of **drug dose**:  $F_{1,12}=5.064$ ,  $p=0.044$ ; Figure 5C) but had no other behavioural effects (Figure 5B,D,E). In experiment 2, 3.0µg/µl CP-101,606 did not have any effects on other behavioural measures (Figure 5B-E).

## Discussion

As previously shown<sup>24</sup>, low dose ketamine (1.0mg/kg) had a specific effect on decision-making biases, inducing a positive change in CBI following acute administration. This effect of ketamine was dose dependent, with higher doses having general effects on task performance without changing CBI. The effects of ketamine were recapitulated to some extent by the GluN2B antagonist, CP-101,606 and muscarinic antagonist, scopolamine, but both also had more general effects on other behavioural measures following systemic administration. All three treatments have previously been reported to have RADD effects in clinical trials<sup>3,29,30</sup>, whilst the other NMDA antagonists tested here did not<sup>5,26-28</sup>, and these also failed to induce a change in bias. The mPFC infusions suggest that this brain region is central to the effects of ketamine, scopolamine and CP-101,606. Interestingly, mPFC infusions more specifically altered bias, suggesting other brain regions may contribute to the systemic effects on other behavioural measures. The importance of the mPFC in modulating RADD effects in neuropsychological tasks is consistent with previous findings in our learning and memory bias assay, the affective bias test<sup>34</sup>. Inactivation of the mPFC with muscimol did positively change bias but animals also exhibited large changes in other behavioural measures. This suggests that the RADDs can modulate activity in this brain region in a more specific way than muscimol, which results in a relatively specific effect on biases in decision-making.

For lanicemine and memantine, the lack of any behavioural effects means there is a possibility that the doses tested were too low. For both treatments the range of doses tested covers the doses that are equivalent to those used humans in clinical trials (lanicemine: 50, 100mg<sup>26</sup>, equivalent to approximately 0.75, 1.5mg/kg; memantine: 5-20mg<sup>5</sup>, equivalent to approximately 0.07-0.3mg/kg), paralleling our effective dose of ketamine (1.0mg/kg, similar to the 0.5mg/kg dose used by Zarate et al.<sup>3</sup>). Although higher doses may yield behavioural effects, these are likely to be due to much higher levels of receptor occupancy than those relevant to the antidepressant effects and may also arise from non-specific actions at other

receptors. When testing lower doses of PCP (another NMDA receptor antagonist not known to show RAAD) than previously used<sup>24</sup>, we also failed to see any change in CBI. Conversely, when we tested higher doses of ketamine than those we had previously<sup>24</sup>, doses that are often used to demonstrate antidepressant effects in other preclinical models used to study depression such as the forced swim test (FST)<sup>41</sup>, we failed to see any change in bias, instead only seeing non-specific changes in other behavioural measures. The behavioural profile seen with these higher doses of ketamine (increased response latency and omissions and decreased premature responding) suggests that these doses may be causing locomotor depression or reducing motivation to respond. Higher doses of ketamine have not been found to have antidepressant effects in clinical trials and these data also suggest that rodent studies using these higher doses may not be looking at specific effects. It may be that the lower 1.0mg/kg dose of ketamine can specifically alter decision making biases because they target a specific population and hence modulate a specific circuit. Some studies have suggested that ketamine may act via disinhibition of GABAergic interneurons leading to a glutamate burst which then activates prefrontal glutamate neurons<sup>42</sup>. Overall, the results from systemic administration of different NMDA receptor antagonists lends support to our interpretation that this reward-based judgement bias task can specifically dissociate between drugs that do show RAAD, and those that do not, despite them having similar pharmacology.

The difference in specificity on behavioural effects, whereby ketamine (1.0mg/kg) only positively changes decision-making bias, but both CP-101,606 and scopolamine have other non-specific effects, suggests that 1.0mg/kg ketamine is able to relatively selectively modulate affective bias. The changes in response latencies, omissions and premature responses caused by CP-101,606 and scopolamine suggest that these drugs may also be having effects on other cognitive processes, such as motivation. However, the direction of changes for these drugs are in opposite directions (decreases in response latency and omissions for CP-101,606 but increases in these for scopolamine) despite them both causing positive changes in CBI. This, combined with the lack of change in accuracy for the

reference tones, suggest that these non-specific effects cannot fully explain the change in decision-making bias.

The neurobiology underlying the relative specificity of ketamine, CP-101,606 and scopolamine in being able to immediately alter decision-making bias, in contrast to the other NMDA receptor antagonists tested that have not shown these effects, are likely to be due to differences in their mechanisms of action. Our findings add weight to the strong body of evidence suggesting that NMDA receptor antagonism is important for short-term, RAAD effects of these drugs<sup>43</sup>, but suggests that specific modulation of either a specific subtype of the receptor or a sub-population of neurons may be involved. CP-101,606 is selective for the GluN2B NMDA receptor subunit, whilst it has been shown that scopolamine, and more recently ketamine, cause a glutamate burst via blockade of NMDA receptors specifically on GABA interneurons that leads to increased mechanistic target of rapamycin complex 1 signalling, brain-derived neurotrophic factor release and synaptic changes in the PFC<sup>42,44-46</sup>. Further studies would be required to test whether these mechanisms also drive these drugs effects on affective bias.

The infusion studies localise the site of action of this rapid change in decision-making bias to the mPFC, corresponding with brain imaging studies in humans that have also shown ketamine-dependent changes in prefrontal glutamatergic neurotransmission<sup>32,33</sup>. This also matches with previous rodent studies, where using the affective bias test, it has been shown that whilst ketamine does not induce positive biases in learning, it can remediate previously acquired negative biases, an effect which also localises to the mPFC<sup>34</sup>. For CP-101,606 and scopolamine, unlike when given systemically, intracerebral mPFC infusion did not cause any non-specific behavioural changes on the task. This could suggest that these non-specific effects are driven by off-target effects of drug binding in other brain areas, or in the case of scopolamine, the periphery. The localisation of the positive modulation of decision making caused by these drugs to the mPFC provides further support for the hypothesis that this might be mediated through burst firing in the prefrontal cortex, an effect that has recently

been shown to cause the activation of downstream pathways thought to be important in the RAAD effects of both ketamine and scopolamine<sup>42,44-46</sup>.

Interestingly, both GABA<sub>A</sub> receptor agonism (muscimol infusion), and NMDA receptor antagonism (ketamine infusion) in the mPFC caused the same qualitative, but not quantitative behavioural change in judgement bias (a positive shift but of different magnitudes), mirroring findings seen previously with intra-infralimbic infusions of muscimol and (R)-CPP on the five choice serial reaction time task, where both drugs increased impulsive responding but by different amounts<sup>47</sup>. It has been suggested that the functional effects of NMDA receptor antagonism may be due to excess extracellular glutamate<sup>48,49</sup>. However, the pronounced, non-specific behavioural effects on other measures seen following muscimol infusion suggests that mechanism of action of the other infusion drugs is more refined than global inhibition of neurotransmission in the mPFC. Previous work in humans and rodents has shown that subcortical and limbic brain regions, such as the amygdala, are important in the neurocircuitry of MDD / depression-related behaviour<sup>50-52</sup>, and a recent study suggests that ketamine may play a critical role in restoring dysfunctional connectivity in these circuits<sup>33</sup>. Furthermore, in rodents, a recent study found that optogenetic activation of pyramidal mPFC neurons containing dopamine receptor D1 caused RAAD-like responses in the forced swim test, and that blockade of these receptors prevented the RAAD effects of ketamine<sup>53</sup>. In order to further our understanding of this mechanism, it will be important to investigate the effects of these drugs on different neuronal subtypes within the mPFC, as well as investigating the wider circuitry that is altered by these drugs.

## *Final conclusions*

This study adds to the evidence that the neuropsychological effects of ketamine are potentially important in its RAAD in patients with MDD, and that these effects in altering

495 affective biases, both in decision-making as demonstrated here, as well as in learning and  
496 memory occur at time points (one hour) before major plastic changes arise. It will be  
497 important to investigate the neurobiological effects of not just the immediate, RAAD of  
498 ketamine, but also the sustained effects by examining how affective biases are altered at  
499 longer time points. Furthermore, investigation of the wider circuits involved in this RAAD  
500 efficacy will be crucial in revealing the mechanism underlying these actions, which will be  
501 important for the development of novel therapeutics. Ketamine (at 1.0mg/kg) seems to have  
502 very specific effects on affective bias, which we can capitalise on to better understand the  
503 circuits that contribute to these modulations of affective biases that are potentially very  
504 important in the cause, perpetuation and treatment of MDD. More detailed circuit analyses  
505 are needed including undertaking studies in other brain regions to determine whether  
506 ketamine's effects are specific to the mPFC.

507 **Funding and Disclosure:** This research was funded by an Industrial Partnership Award  
508 awarded by BBSRC in collaboration with Boehringer Ingelheim (Grant no: BB/N015762/1)  
509 and carried out with intellectual support from Boehringer Ingelheim. ESJR has current or  
510 previously obtained research grant funding through PhD studentships, collaborative grants  
511 and contract research from Boehringer Ingelheim, Compass Pathways, Eli Lilly, MSD, Pfizer  
512 and SmallPharma. The authors declare no conflict of interest.

513 **Author contributions:** CAH performed the research, analysed data, wrote and edited the  
514 paper. JMB performed research and analysed data. RA and BH designed the research and  
515 edited the paper. ESJR designed the research and wrote and edited the paper.

516

517 Supplementary Information accompanies this paper a (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41423-018->  
518 0033-z)



## References

1. World Health Organization, 2018. Depression fact sheet 2018 [Available from: [http://https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/depression.](http://https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/depression)] Accessed 05/11/2019.
2. Anderson IM, Nutt DJ, Deakin JFW (2000) Evidence-based guidelines for treating depressive disorders with antidepressants: a revision of the 1993 British Association for Psychopharmacology guidelines. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 14:3-20.
3. Zarate CA, Jr., Singh JB, Carlson PJ, Brutsche NE, Ameli R, Luckenbaugh DA, Charney DS, Manji HK (2006b) A randomized trial of an N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist in treatment-resistant major depression. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 63:856-864.
4. Berman RM, Cappiello A, Anand A, Oren DA, Heninger GR, Charney DS, Krystal JH (2000) Antidepressant effects of ketamine in depressed patients. *Biol Psychiatry* 47:351-354.
5. Zarate CA, Jr., Singh JB, Quiroz JA, De Jesus G, Denicoff KK, Luckenbaugh DA, Manji HK, Charney DS (2006a) A double-blind, placebo-controlled study of memantine in the treatment of major depression. *The American Journal of Psychiatry* 163:153-155.
6. DiazGranados N, Ibrahim LA, Brutsche NE, Ameli R, Henter ID, Luckenbaugh DA, Machado-Vieira R, Zarate CA, Jr. (2010) Rapid resolution of suicidal ideation after a single infusion of an N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist in patients with treatment-resistant major depressive disorder. *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 71:1605-1611.
7. Lapidus KA, Levitch CF, Perez AM, Brallier JW, Parides MK, Soleimani L, Feder A, Iosifescu DV, Charney DS, Murrough JW (2014) A randomized controlled trial of intranasal ketamine in major depressive disorder. *Biol Psychiatry* 76:970-976.
8. Price RB, Iosifescu DV, Murrough JW, Chang LC, Al Jurdi RK, Iqbal SZ, Soleimani L, Charney DS, Foulkes AL, Mathew SJ (2014) Effects of ketamine on explicit and implicit

542 suicidal cognition: a randomized controlled trial in treatment-resistant depression.  
 543 Depression and Anxiety 31:335-343.

544 9. Mathews A, MacLeod C (2005) Cognitive Vulnerability to Emotional Disorders. Annual  
 545 Review of Clinical Psychology 1:167-195.

546 10. Clark L, Chamberlain SR, Sahakian BJ (2009) Neurocognitive Mechanisms in  
 547 Depression: Implications for Treatment. Annual Review of Neuroscience 32:57-74.

548 11. Gotlib IH, Joormann J (2010) Cognition and Depression: Current Status and Future  
 549 Directions. Annual Review of Clinical Psychology 6:285-312.

550 12. Harmer CJ, Bhagwagar Z, Perrett DI, Vollm BA, Cowen PJ, Goodwin GM (2003) Acute  
 551 SSRI administration affects the processing of social cues in healthy volunteers.  
 552 Neuropsychopharmacology 28:148-152.

553 13. Harmer CJ, Shelley NC, Cowen PJ, Goodwin GM (2004) Increased positive versus  
 554 negative affective perception and memory in healthy volunteers following selective serotonin  
 555 and norepinephrine reuptake inhibition. The American Journal of Psychiatry 161:1256-1263.

556 14. Harmer CJ, de Bodinat C, Dawson GR, Dourish CT, Waldenmaier L, Adams S, Cowen  
 557 PJ, Goodwin GM (2011) Agomelatine facilitates positive versus negative affective  
 558 processing in healthy volunteer models. Journal of Psychopharmacology (Oxford, England)  
 559 25:1159-1167.

560 15. Harmer CJ, O'Sullivan U, Favaron E, Massey-Chase R, Ayres R, Reinecke A, Goodwin  
 561 GM, Cowen PJ (2009) Effect of acute antidepressant administration on negative affective  
 562 bias in depressed patients. The American Journal of Psychiatry 166:1178-1184.

563 16. Stuart SA, Butler P, Munafo MR, Nutt DJ, Robinson ES (2013) A translational rodent  
 564 assay of affective biases in depression and antidepressant therapy.  
 565 Neuropsychopharmacology 38:1625-1635.

- 566 17. Harding EJ, Paul ES, Mendl M (2004) Animal behaviour: Cognitive bias and affective  
567 state. *Nature* 427:312-312.
- 568 18. Robinson E, Roiser J (2015) Affective Biases in Humans and Animals. In: Robbins T.W.,  
569 Sahakian B.J. (eds) *Translational Neuropsychopharmacology. Current Topics in Behavioral*  
570 *Neurosciences*, vol 28. Springer, Cham.
- 571 19. Mendl M, Burman OHP, Paul ES (2010) An integrative and functional framework for the  
572 study of animal emotion and mood. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*  
573 277:2895-2904.
- 574 20. Roelofs S, Boleij H, Nordquist RE, van der Staay FJ (2016) Making Decisions under  
575 Ambiguity: Judgment Bias Tasks for Assessing Emotional State in Animals. *Frontiers in*  
576 *Behavioral Neuroscience* 10:119.
- 577 21. Neville V, Nakagawa S, Zidar J, Paul ES, Lagisz M, Bateson M, Løvlie H, Mendl M  
578 (2020) Pharmacological manipulations of judgement bias: A systematic review and meta-  
579 analysis. *Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews* 108:269-286.
- 580 22. Hales CA, Robinson ES, Houghton CJ (2016) Diffusion Modelling Reveals the Decision  
581 Making Processes Underlying Negative Judgement Bias in Rats. *PloS One* 11:e0152592
- 582 23. Parker RM, Paul ES, Burman OH, Browne WJ, Mendl M (2014) Housing conditions  
583 affect rat responses to two types of ambiguity in a reward-reward discrimination cognitive  
584 bias task. *Behav Brain Res* 274:73-83.
- 585 24. Hales CA, Houghton CJ, Robinson ESJ (2017) Behavioural and computational methods  
586 reveal differential effects for how delayed and rapid onset antidepressants effect decision  
587 making in rats. *European Neuropsychopharmacology* 27:1268-1280.

588 254. Anderson IM, Nutt DJ, Deakin JFW (2000) Evidence-based guidelines for treating  
589 depressive disorders with antidepressants: a revision of the 1993 British Association for  
590 Psychopharmacology guidelines. *Journal of Psychopharmacology* 14:3-20.

591 26. Sanacora G, Johnson MR, Khan A, Atkinson SD, Riesenberger RR, Schronen JP, Burke  
592 MA, Zajecka JM, Barra L, Su HL, Posener JA, Bui KH, Quirk MC, Piser TM, Mathew SJ,  
593 Pathak S (2017) Adjunctive Lanicemine (AZD6765) in Patients with Major Depressive  
594 Disorder and History of Inadequate Response to Antidepressants: A Randomized, Placebo-  
595 Controlled Study. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 42:844-853.

596 27. Smith EG, Deligiannidis KM, Ulbricht CM, Landolin CS, Patel JK, Rothschild AJ (2013)  
597 Antidepressant augmentation using the N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist memantine: a  
598 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* 74:966-  
599 973.

600 28. Ates-Alagoz Z, Adejare A (2013) NMDA Receptor Antagonists for Treatment of  
601 Depression. *Pharmaceuticals (Basel)* 6:480-499.

602 29. Preskorn SH, Baker B, Kolluri S, Menniti FS, Krams M, Landen JW (2008) An innovative  
603 design to establish proof of concept of the antidepressant effects of the NR2B subunit  
604 selective N-methyl-D-aspartate antagonist, CP-101,606, in patients with treatment-refractory  
605 major depressive disorder. *Journal of Clinical Psychopharmacology* 28:631-637.

606 30. Furey ML, Drevets WC (2006) Antidepressant efficacy of the antimuscarinic drug  
607 scopolamine: a randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 63:1121-  
608 1129.

609 31. Browne CA, Lucki I (2013) Antidepressant effects of ketamine: mechanisms underlying  
610 fast-acting novel antidepressants. *Frontiers in Pharmacology* 4:161.

- 611 32. Li CT, Chen MH, Lin WC, Hong CJ, Yang BH, Liu RS, Tu PC, Su TP (2016) The effects  
612 of low-dose ketamine on the prefrontal cortex and amygdala in treatment-resistant  
613 depression: A randomized controlled study. *Hum Brain Mapp* 37:1080-1090.
- 614 33. Abdallah CG, De Feyter HM, Averill LA, Jiang L, Averill CL, Chowdhury GMI, Purohit P,  
615 de Graaf RA, Esterlis I, Juchem C, Pittman BP, Krystal JH, Rothman DL, Sanacora G,  
616 Mason GF (2018) The effects of ketamine on prefrontal glutamate neurotransmission in  
617 healthy and depressed subjects. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 43:2154-2160.
- 618 34. Stuart SA, Butler P, Munafo MR, Nutt DJ, Robinson ES (2015) Distinct  
619 Neuropsychological Mechanisms May Explain Delayed- Versus Rapid-Onset Antidepressant  
620 Efficacy. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 40:2165-74.
- 621 35. Stuart SA, Robinson ESJ (2015) Reducing the stress of drug administration: implications  
622 for the 3Rs. *Scientific Reports* 5:14288.
- 623 36. Duman, RS (2018) Ketamine and rapid-acting antidepressants: a new era in the battle  
624 against depression and suicide. *F1000Research* 7, F1000 Faculty Rev-659.
- 625 37. Benn A, Robinson ES (2014) Investigating glutamatergic mechanism in attention and  
626 impulse control using rats in a modified 5-choice serial reaction time task. *PLoS ONE*  
627 9:e115374.
- 628 38. Paxinos G, Watson C (1998) *The Rat Brain - In Stereotaxic Coordinates*. San Diego, CA:  
629 Academic Press.
- 630 39. Bethell EJ (2015) A "How-To" Guide for Designing Judgment Bias Studies to Assess  
631 Captive Animal Welfare. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* 18:S18-S42.
- 632 40. Baciadonna L, McElligott AG (2015) The use of judgement bias to assess welfare in farm  
633 livestock. *Animal Welfare* 24:81-91.

634 41. Polis AJ, Fitzgerald PJ, Hale PJ, Watson BO (2019) Rodent ketamine depression-related  
635 research: Finding patterns in a literature of variability. *Behav Brain Res* 376:112153.

636 42. Gerhard DM, Pothula S, Liu RJ, Wu M, Li XY, Girgenti MJ, Taylor SR, Duman CH,  
637 Delpire E, Picciotto M, Wohleb ES, Duman RS (2019) GABA interneurons are the cellular  
638 trigger for ketamine's rapid antidepressant actions. *J Clin Invest* pii: 130808. [Epub ahead of  
639 print]

640 43. Drewniany E, Han J, Hancock C, Jones RL, Lim J, Nemat Gorgani N, Sperry JK, 3rd, Yu  
641 HJ, Raffa RB (2015) Rapid-onset antidepressant action of ketamine: potential revolution in  
642 understanding and future pharmacologic treatment of depression. *J Clin Pharm Ther* 40:125-  
643 130.

644 44. Li N, Lee B, Liu RJ, Banasr M, Dwyer JM, Iwata M, Li XY, Aghajanian G, Duman RS  
645 (2010) mTOR-dependent synapse formation underlies the rapid antidepressant effects of  
646 NMDA antagonists. *Science* 329:959-964.

647 45. Voleti B, Navarria A, Liu RJ, Banasr M, Li N, Terwilliger R, Sanacora G, Eid T,  
648 Aghajanian G, Duman RS (2013) Scopolamine rapidly increases mammalian target of  
649 rapamycin complex 1 signaling, synaptogenesis, and antidepressant behavioral responses.  
650 *Biol Psychiatry* 74:742-749.

651 46. Wohleb ES, Wu M, Gerhard DM, Taylor SR, Picciotto MR, Alreja M, Duman RS (2016)  
652 GABA interneurons mediate the rapid antidepressant-like effects of scopolamine. *J Clin*  
653 *Invest* 126:2482-2494.

654 47. Murphy ER, Fernando ABP, Urcelay GP, Robinson ESJ, Mar AC, Theobald DEH, Dalley  
655 JW, Robbins TW (2012) Impulsive behaviour induced by both NMDA receptor antagonism  
656 and GABAA receptor activation in rat ventromedial prefrontal cortex. *Psychopharmacology*  
657 219:401-410.

- 658 48. Ceglia I, Carli M, Baviera M, Renoldi G, Calcagno E, Invernizzi RW (2004) The 5-HT  
659 receptor antagonist M100,907 prevents extracellular glutamate rising in response to NMDA  
660 receptor blockade in the mPFC. *J Neurochem* 91:189-199.
- 661 49. Moghaddam B, Adams B, Verma A, Daly D (1997) Activation of glutamatergic  
662 neurotransmission by ketamine: a novel step in the pathway from NMDA receptor blockade  
663 to dopaminergic and cognitive disruptions associated with the prefrontal cortex. *Journal of*  
664 *Neuroscience* 17:2921-2927.
- 665 50. Eshel N, Roiser JP (2010) Reward and punishment processing in depression. *Biol*  
666 *Psychiatry* 68:118-124.
- 667 51. Murrough JW, Iacoviello B, Neumeister A, Charney DS, Iosifescu DV (2011) Cognitive  
668 dysfunction in depression: neurocircuitry and new therapeutic strategies. *Neurobiol Learn*  
669 *Mem* 96:553-563.
- 670 52. Biselli T, Lange S, Sablotny L, Steffen J, Walther A (2019) Optogenetic and  
671 chemogenetic insights into the neurocircuitry of depression-like behaviour: A systematic  
672 review. *The European Journal of Neuroscience*. doi: 10.1111/ejn.14603. [Epub ahead of  
673 print]
- 674 53. Hare BD, Shinohara R, Liu RJ, Pothula S, DiLeone RJ, Duman RS (2019) Optogenetic  
675 stimulation of medial prefrontal cortex Drd1 neurons produces rapid and long-lasting  
676 antidepressant effects. *Nat Commun* 10:223.

## Figure Legends

### **Figure 1** – *Schematic of the judgement bias task and trial structure.*

In the judgement bias task (JBT), rats are trained to associate one tone frequency (2kHz) with a high value reward: i.e. if the rat presses the correct lever (shown as the left lever in (A), but counterbalanced across rats in a cohort) they receive a high value reward (four reward pellets). They also learn to associate a second tone frequency (8kHz) with receiving a low value reward (one reward pellet; shown in (A) as pressing the right lever during the tone). Judgement bias, or decision making about an ambiguous cue, which is known to be influenced by affective state, can be probed by presenting an ambiguous tone that has a midpoint frequency between the two reference cues (5kHz), and recording which lever the rat presses. If the rat is expecting the more positive outcome (indicative of an optimistic judgement bias), then they will more often choose the large reward lever, but if the rat is in a more negative affective state, they will expect the less positive outcome and more often choose the low reward lever, a pessimistic judgement bias. During the task, tones are presented within discrete trials, the format of which is depicted as a flow chart in (B). The task is self-initiated, and so each trial begins only once the rat makes a nosepoke entry into the magazine port. This is followed by a 5 second inter-trial interval (ITI), during which time the rat has to wait and refrain from making a lever press response. If the rat does press a lever, they are punished with a 10 second timeout (TO). The tone cue is presented for a maximum of 20 seconds following the ITI, or until the rat makes a lever press response. The outcome following each lever press depends on which tone was played, and which lever was pressed. Correct lever presses to either reference tone (high or low tones) results in the corresponding reward being delivered to the magazine, whilst incorrect lever presses results in a 10 second TO. This TO also occurs if the rat fails to make any lever press during the 20 second tone presentation (an omission). During TOs, lever presses and magazine entries are recorded but have no consequences, meaning the rat has to wait to be able to begin the next trial. When the midpoint tone is presented, 50% of the time this tone is “classified” by



the software as having the same response properties as the high reward tone. I.e., if the rat makes a high reward lever press during a midpoint tone presentation classified in this way, then they will receive a four pellet reward, but will experience the 10 second TO if they make a low reward lever press. Similarly, if the midpoint tone is “classified” as having the same response properties as the low reward tone, then a high reward lever press would result in a TO, whilst a low reward lever press would result in delivery of the small reward. In this way, each lever is only ever associated with the same reward outcome (i.e. four pellets for the high reward lever), but the midpoint tone becomes randomly reinforced, and so rats will maintain responding for this tone across multiple trials within a session, whilst being unable to learn a specific reward contingency to associate with the midpoint tone.

**Figure 2** – *The effect of acute treatment with rapid acting antidepressant drugs and NMDA receptor antagonists on judgement bias of the midpoint ambiguous tone.*

Ketamine (0.0, 1.0 mg/kg; n = 13), scopolamine (0.0, 0.03, 0.1 mg/kg; n = 16), CP-101,606 (Expt 1: 0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0 mg/kg, n = 15; Expt 2: 0.0, 6.0 mg/kg, n = 15), lanicemine (0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0 mg/kg; n = 16), memantine (0.0, 0.1, 0.3, 1.0 mg/kg; n = 16) and MK-801 (0.0, 0.01, 0.03 mg/kg; n = 16) were administered acutely by intraperitoneal injection prior to testing on the judgement bias task. (A) Replicating previous studies, ketamine (1.0 mg/kg) positively changed CBI. (B) Scopolamine (0.1 mg/kg) also caused a positive change from baseline in CBI. (C) In experiment 1, there was no overall effect of CP-101,606 on change in CBI. A positive change was seen in experiment 2 with a higher 6.0 mg/kg dose. (D-G) Lanicemine, memantine, MK-801 and low doses of PCP did not induce a change in CBI for the midpoint tone at the doses tested. Data shown and represent mean  $\pm$  SEM (bars and error bars) overlaid with individual data points for each rat. Dashed line (panel C) indicates separate, counterbalanced experiments. \* $p < 0.05$ ; # $p < 0.05$  for a one-sample t-test for 3.0 mg/kg CP-101,6060 only (comparison to a test-value of zero representing a change in CBI for that drug

only from baseline). CP-101,606, ketamine, lanicemine, memantine, PCP: 60 min pre-treatment; scopolamine, MK-801: 30 min pre-treatment

**Figure 3** – Behavioural data from the judgement bias task following acute treatment with high doses of ketamine.

Acute doses of ketamine (Expt 1: 0.0, 10.0 mg/kg, n = 16; Expt 2: 0.0, 25.0 mg/kg, n = 16) were administered by intraperitoneal injection to measure their effect on judgement bias. (A) Neither high dose of ketamine caused a change in interpretation of the midpoint tone. (B) Both doses of ketamine increased accuracy for the low tone. (C) Both doses of ketamine increased response latencies across all three tones. (D) Omissions were increased across all three tones following both ketamine doses. (E) High doses of ketamine (10.0, 25.0 mg/kg) decreased premature responding. \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \*\* $p < 0.01$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM (panels B-E) with individual data points overlaid for each rat (panel A). Dashed lines indicate separate, counterbalanced experiments. 60 min pre-treatment. HT - high reward tone; MT - midpoint tone; LT - low reward tone.

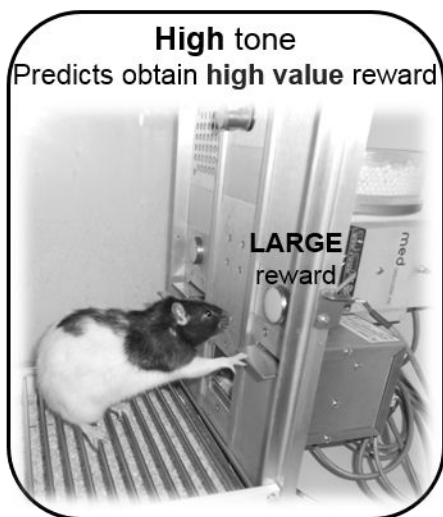
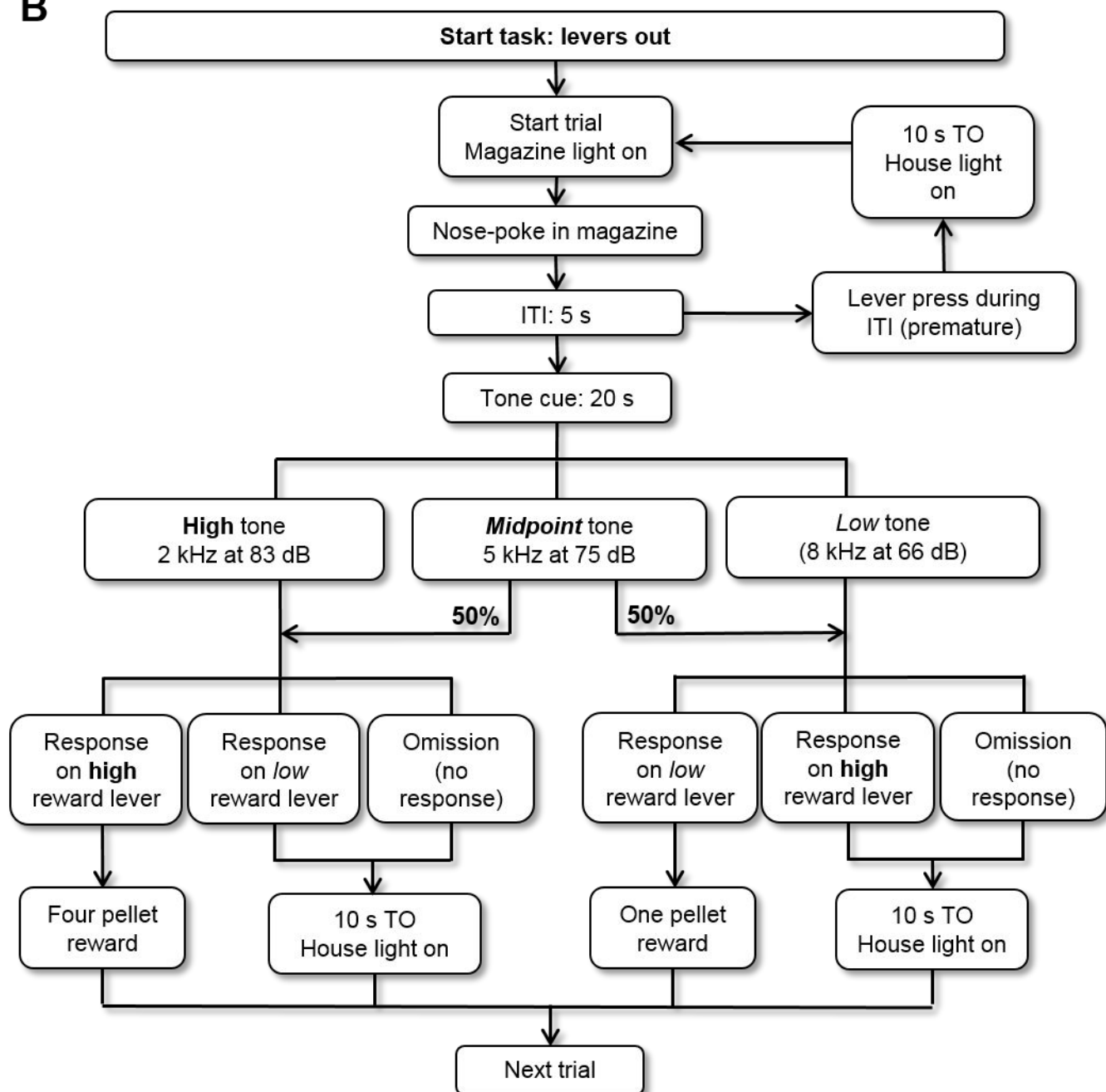
**Figure 4** – Data from mPFC cannulated rats on the judgement bias task.

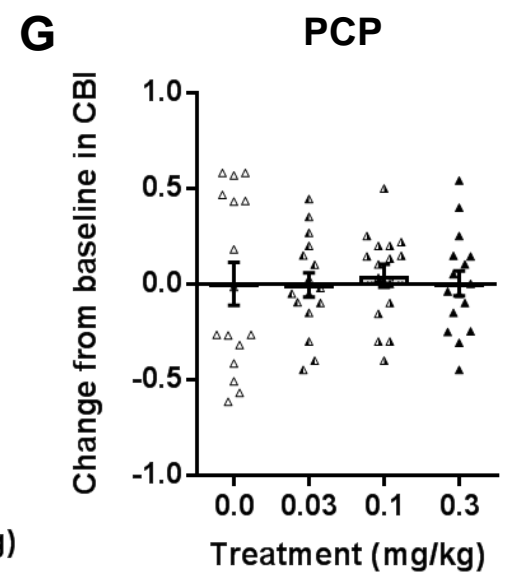
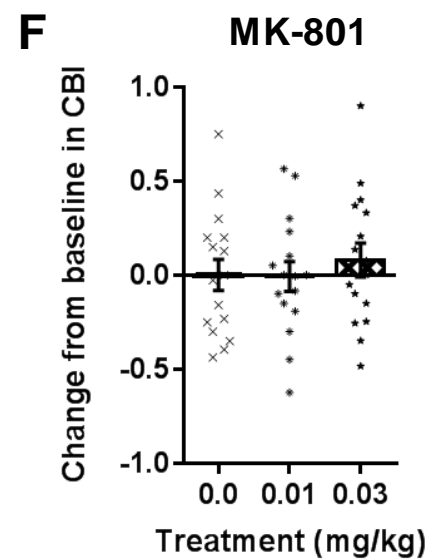
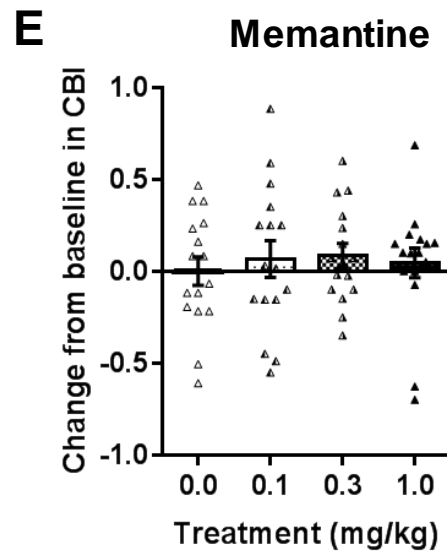
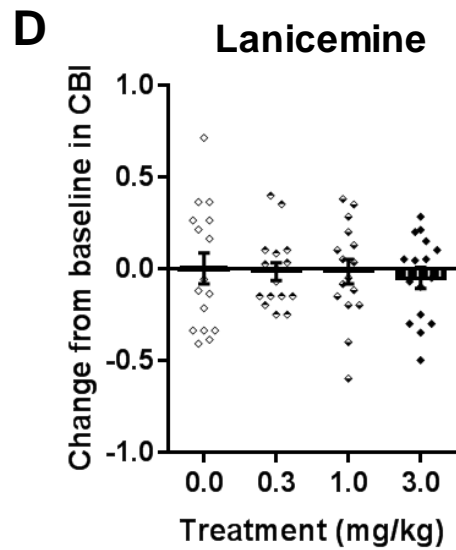
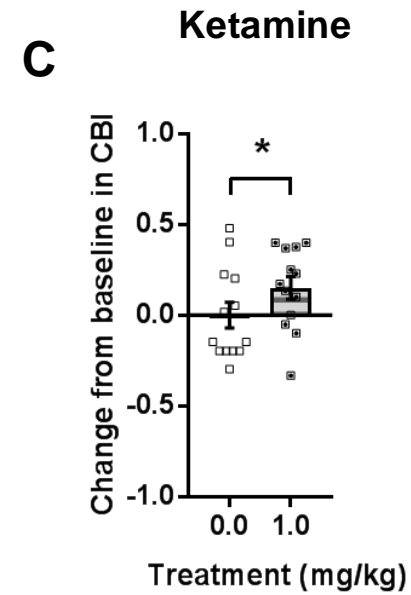
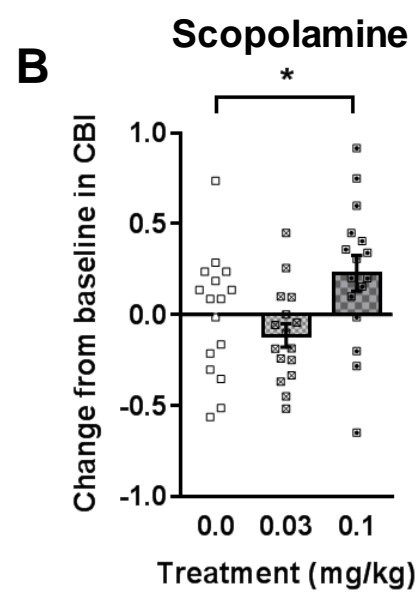
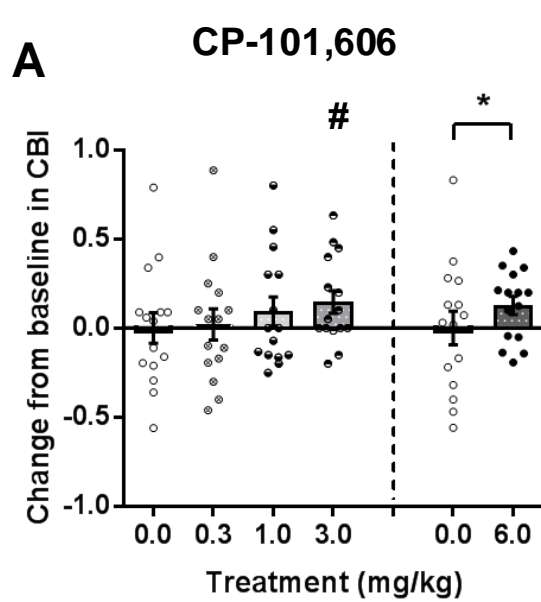
Probe tests with no experimental manipulation were conducted before and after mPFC cannulation surgery to ensure that the surgery itself did not effect performance in the judgement bias task. (A) Cognitive bias index became more negative in the probe tests conducted after surgery. (B) The location of the injector placement was confirmed post-mortem and black dots represent the location of the cannula tip as assessed from Cresyl violet-stained brain sections. Coronal sections are +3.7 mm to +2.5mm relative to bregma (Paxinos and Watson, 1998). (C-G) In the first infusion experiment, ketamine (Ket; 1.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ) muscimol (Mus; 0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ), scopolamine (Sco; 0.1  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ) or vehicle (Veh; 0.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ; n = 13), were administered by intracerebral infusion into the mPFC to measure the effect on

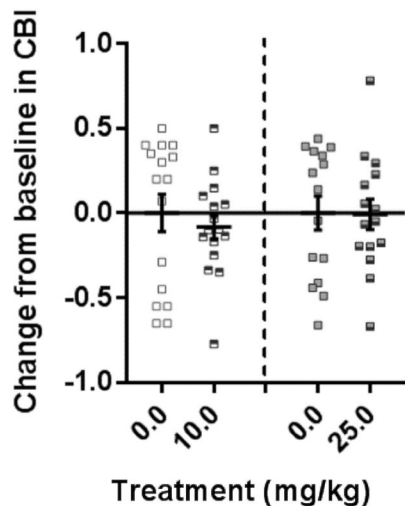
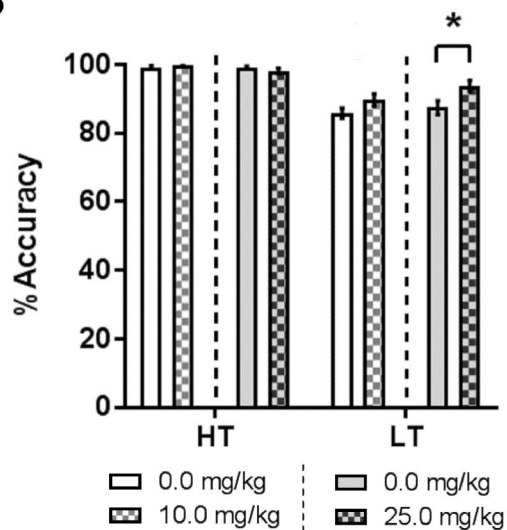
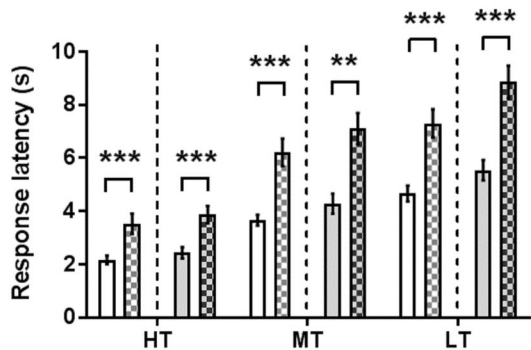
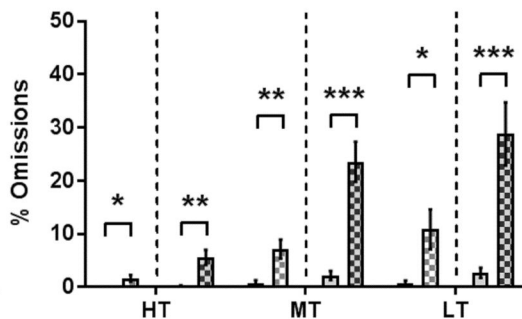
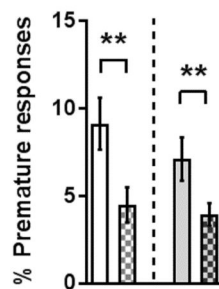
judgement bias. (C) Ketamine, muscimol and scopolamine all caused a positive change in cognitive bias index (CBI) for the midpoint tone. (D) Muscimol decreased accuracy for both reference tones. (E) Muscimol increased response latencies for the high and midpoint tones. (F) For the high and low tones, muscimol increased omissions. (G) Muscimol also increased premature responding. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM (panels A, C-G) with individual data points overlaid for each rat (panel A,C). Black dashed line (panel f) represents 50% accuracy depicting performance at chance. 5 min pre-treatment. \*\*\* $p < 0.001$ , \* $p < 0.05$ . HT - high reward tone; MT - midpoint tone; LT - low reward tone.

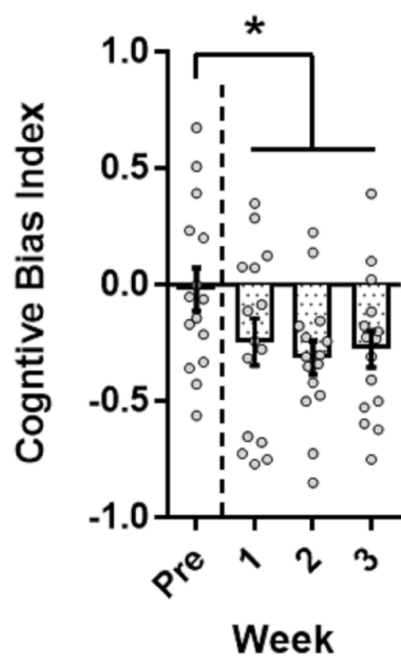
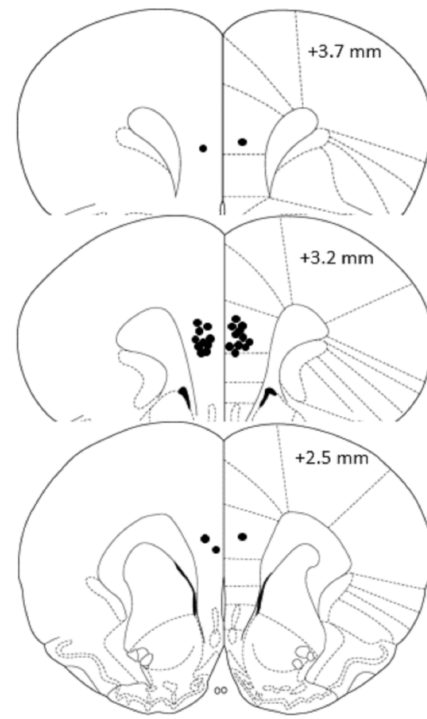
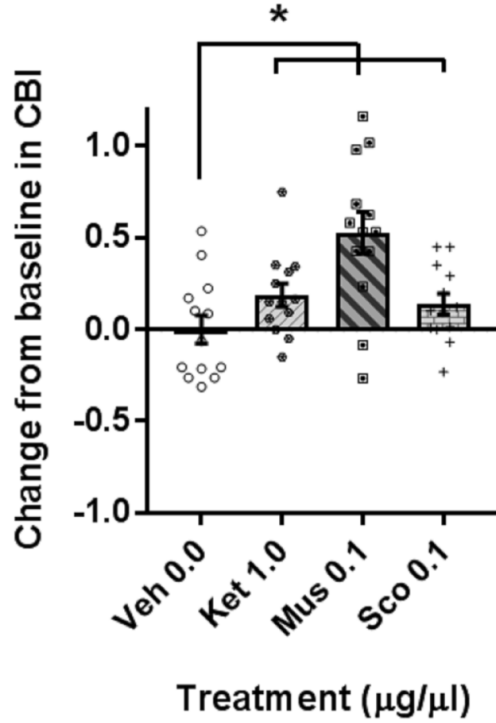
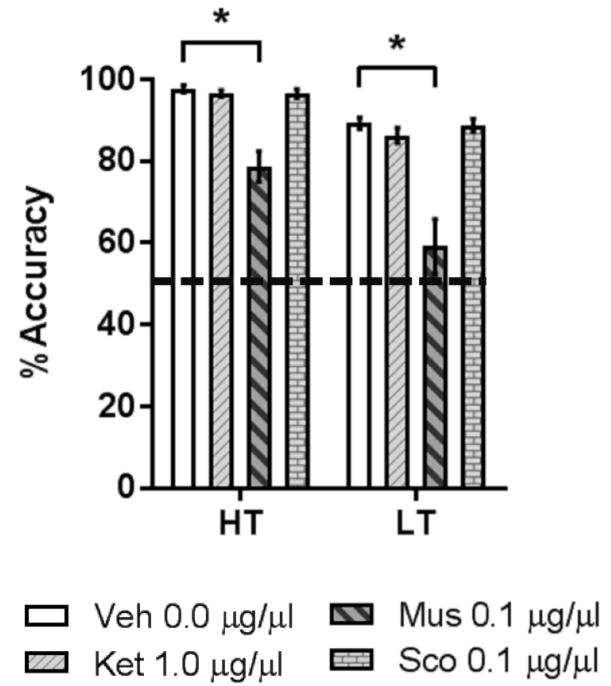
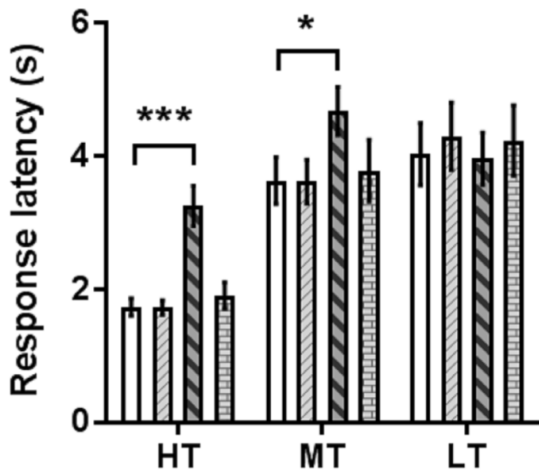
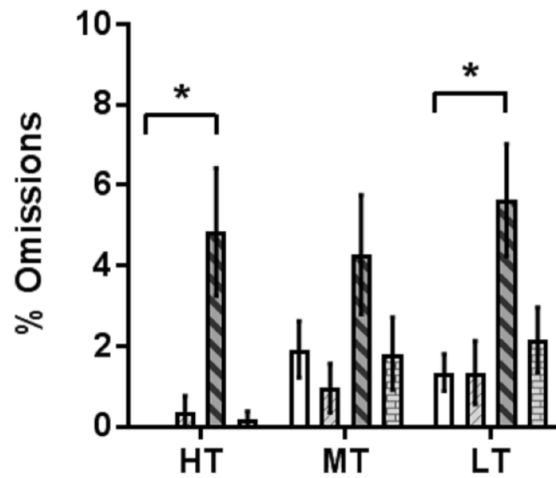
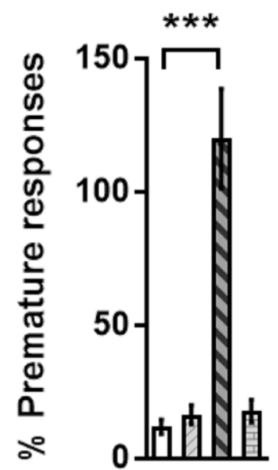
**Figure 5** – Behavioural data from the judgement bias task following mPFC infusions of CP-101,606.

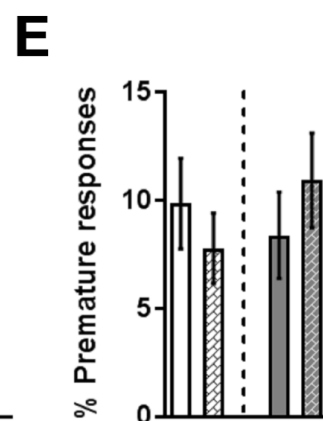
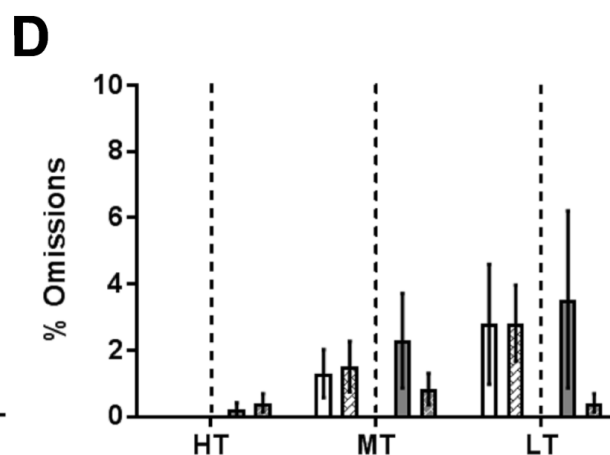
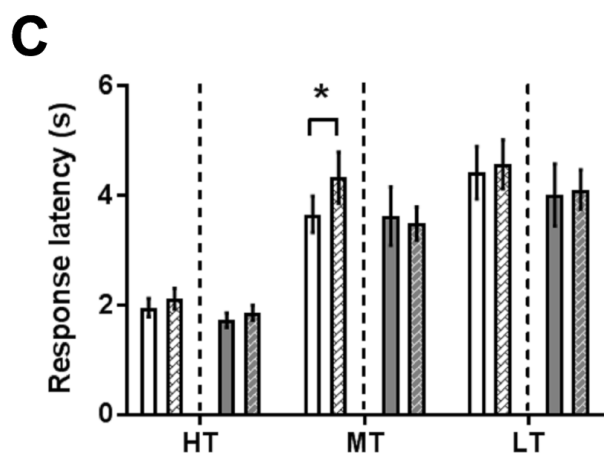
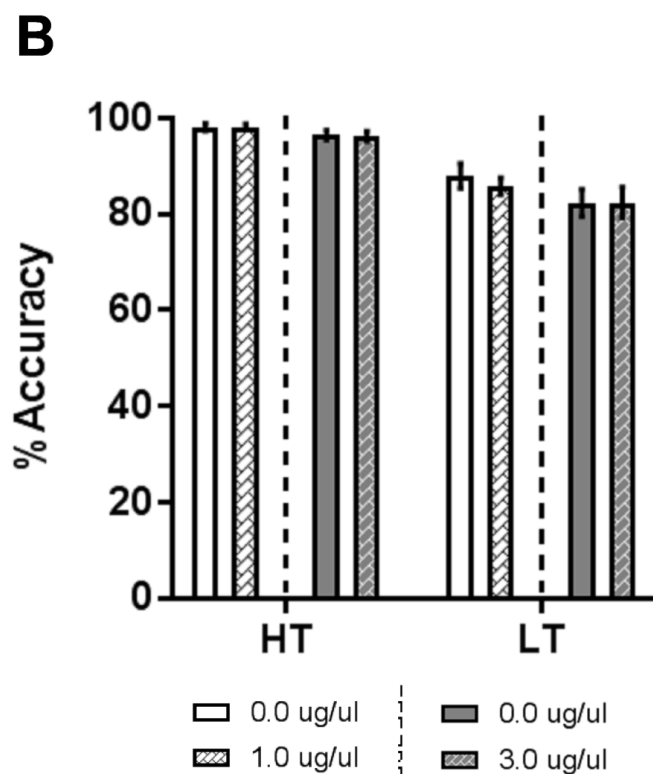
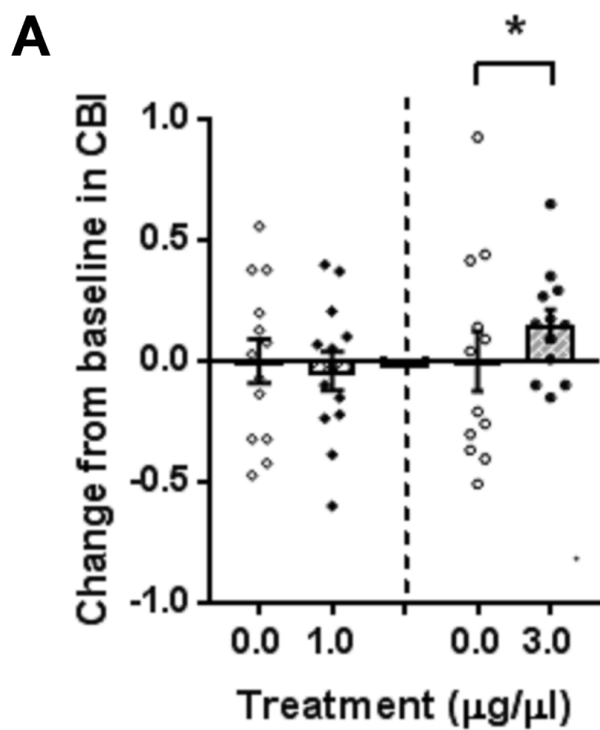
CP-101,606 (Expt 1: 0.0, 1.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ,  $n = 13$ ; Expt 2: 0.0, 3.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ,  $n = 12$ ) was administered by intracerebral infusion in the mPFC to measure the effect on judgement bias. (A) The higher dose of CP-101,606 (3.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ) caused a positive change from baseline in CBI. (B) Accuracy was not altered by either dose of CP-101,606. (C) In experiment 1, CP-101,606 (1.0  $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ ) increased response latency for the midpoint tone. (D/E) There was no effect of either dose on omissions or premature responding, \* $p < 0.05$ . Data represent mean  $\pm$  SEM (panels B-E) with individual data points overlaid for each rat (panel A). Dashed lines indicate separate, counterbalanced experiments. 5 min pre-treatment. HT - high reward tone; MT - midpoint tone; LT - low reward tone.

**A****B**



**A****B****C****D****E**

**A****B****C****D****E****F****G**





Supplementary Information for: **Role of the medial prefrontal cortex in the effects of rapid acting antidepressants on decision-making biases in rodents**

**Title:** Role of the medial prefrontal cortex in the effects of rapid acting antidepressants on decision-making biases in rodents

**Running title:** Rapid antidepressant effects on decision-making biases

**Author names:** Hales CA<sup>1</sup> (PhD), Bartlett JM<sup>1</sup> (BSc), Arban R<sup>2</sup> (PhD), Hengerer B<sup>2</sup> (PhD), Robinson ESJ<sup>1</sup> (PhD)

**Author Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup>School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1TD, UK

<sup>2</sup>CNS Diseases Research, Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH & Co. KG, Biberach an der Riss, Germany

**Corresponding author:** Name: Prof. Emma Robinson

Email: [emma.s.j.robinson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:emma.s.j.robinson@bristol.ac.uk)

Address: School of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, Tankards Close, University of Bristol, Bristol, BS8 1TD, UK.

Telephone: (+44)117 3311449

**Table S1** - Training stages and required performance criteria for the judgement bias task.

Stage	Description	Criteria	Sessions required to meet criteria		
			Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
<b>1 – Magazine training</b>	Tone (2 kHz only for half the session followed by 8 kHz only for the rest of the session, order counterbalanced across rats) played for 20 s followed by release of one pellet into magazine; 10 s ITI. No levers available.	20 pellets eaten for each tone frequency	1	1	1
<b>2 – Tone training</b>	Response on lever during tone (2 kHz or 8kHz only, order counterbalanced across rats) rewarded with one pellet. Lever corresponding to that tone frequency available only.	> 50 trials completed for two consecutive sessions on each tone frequency	4	4	4
<b>3 – Discrimination training</b>	Response on correct corresponding lever only during tone (either 2 kHz or 8 kHz presented pseudorandomly) rewarded with one pellet. Both levers available. Incorrect or omitted trials were repeated (i.e. same tone frequency played) until a correct response occurred.	> 70% accuracy for both tones, no significant differences on analysed behavioural measures over three sessions and < 1:1 ratio of correct:premature responses	15	10	10
<b>4 – Reward magnitude training</b>	As Stage 3 but response on correct corresponding lever only rewarded with four pellets for high reward tone and one pellet for low reward tone. Both levers available.	As for Stage 3 but with > 60% accuracy for both tones (to allow for biases in responding to reference tones caused by the difference in associated reward magnitude).	9	8-10	10
<b>5 – Baseline session</b>	Same format as reward magnitude training sessions.	Animals had to show equivalent baseline session performance to pre-drug study baseline sessions (measured by no significant differences pre- and post- on behavioural measures.	-	-	-
<b>6 – Probe sessions</b>	For reference tones (2 of 8 kHz) response on correct corresponding lever during the tone rewarded with either 4 pellets (2 kHz) or 1 pellet (8 kHz) reward. For ambiguous midpoint tone (5 kHz), random reinforcement was used whereby outcomes for 50% of the trials followed 2 kHz tone trials, whilst the other 50% followed 8 kHz tone trials (see Supplementary Figure XX for further details). There were no repeated trials following incorrect or omissions.	< 60% accuracy for both reference tones, < 50% omissions	-	-	-

For all training stages, trial structure was as depicted in Figure S1 (except for magazine training which excludes any form of lever press response). Training stages 1-4 were conducted once per day, Monday to Friday, and consisted of a maximum of 100 trials, or lasted for 60 minutes. Where both tones were played (stages 3-4) tone type was equally split

across the session (50 trials per tone). Baseline sessions also consisted of 100 trials, and were conducted Monday to Friday during baseline weeks between drug studies, and on Monday and Thursday during drug studies. Probe sessions consisted of 120 trials: 40 of each reference tone (2 and 8 kHz) and 40 midpoint tones (5 kHz). Pseudorandom tone presentation was achieved by splitting each training/baseline (probe) session into blocks of 10 (12) trials, within which there were 5 (4) presentations of each tone frequency. Within a block, there could only be a maximum of n-1 consecutive tone presentations (i.e. in baseline sessions, a maximum of 4 consecutive trials of either 2 or 8 kHz). Omitted trials (no lever press during tone presentation; possible in stages 2-4) were punished with a 10 second timeout where the house light was turned on, and the animal was unable to initiate another trial. Incorrect trials (wrong lever for the tone presented; possible in stages 3-4) were also punished with a 10 second timeout with the house light on. Premature trials (lever press during the ITI; possible during stage 2-4) were similarly punished with a 10 second timeout with the house light on. Each new trial had to be self-initiated by the animal by making an entry into the magazine (this was signalled by the magazine light being turned on, and was switched off once animals made the magazine nose poke). Baseline sessions were the same format as reward magnitude training sessions, with animals required to repeat incorrect or omitted trials. Midpoint tones during the probe session were reinforced as follows: to program random reinforcement within the constraints of the software, the ambiguous midpoint tone was made up of two copies of the 5 kHz tone (75 dB), each of which was programmed to be classed as "correct" for one of the two lever press responses. This meant that the outcome associated with each of the two ambiguous tones could be programmed to be the same as one of the reference tones, hence resulting in random reinforcement. I.e., 50% of the time lever presses for the midpoint tone had outcomes that were the same as the high reward tone (4 pellets or a timeout), whilst 50% of the time lever presses had outcomes that were the same as the low reward tone (timeout or 1 pellet). Responses to either of the "two" midpoint tones were analysed together.

Cohort	# rats	Acute drug treatment	Doses (mg/kg)
1	16	Memantine	0.0, 0.1, 0.3, 1.0
		MK-801	0.0, 0.01, 0.03
		Lanicemine	0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0
		CP-101,606 (Experiment 1)	0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0
		CP-101,606 (Experiment 2)	0.0, 6.0
		Scopolamine	0.0, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3
2	16	Low dose PCP	0.0, 0.03, 0.1, 0.3
		High dose ketamine (Experiment 1)	0.0, 10.0
		High dose ketamine (Experiment 2)	0.0, 25.0
3	15 <sup>\$</sup>	Ketamine (systemic)	0.0, 1.0
		mPFC infusions (Experiment 1): ketamine, muscimol, scopolamine	0.0, 1.0, 0.1, 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$
		mPFC infusion: CP-101,606 (Experiment 1)	0.0, 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$
		mPFC infusion: CP-101,606 (Experiment 2)	0.0, 3.0 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$

**Table S2** - Summary of treatments used in the different cohorts.

<sup>\$</sup>Initial total n number for this manipulation is 15 as one rat had to be euthanised after the first infusion habituation session as dummy cannula could not be removed from the guide.

**Table S3** – Data for response latency for baseline weeks between drug studies from the JBT.

Drug	Cohort	Response Latency									
		Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5	
		HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT
Memantine	1	2.26±0.17	3.68±0.26	2.54±0.15	4.65±0.28	2.71±0.19	5.08±0.30	2.63±0.17	4.59±0.27	2.84±0.21	4.39±0.33
MK-801		2.52±0.19	4.57±0.32	2.92±0.15	5.61±0.28	2.97±0.15	5.35±0.23	2.82±0.16	5.20±0.26	3.11±0.22	5.72±0.29
Lanicemine		2.60±0.15	4.81±0.24	2.85±0.14	5.04±0.25	2.81±0.15	4.82±0.21	2.95±0.18	5.26±0.20	3.05±0.34	5.80±0.43
CP-101,606: low		2.58±0.21	4.59±0.26	2.72±0.15	4.94±0.29	2.72±0.20	4.91±0.26	2.48±0.19	4.44±0.17	2.94±0.21	5.42±0.20
CP-101,606: high		2.99±0.23	5.11±0.31	3.15±0.25	5.30±0.29	3.28±0.24	5.84±0.26	3.02±0.21	5.34±0.30	3.68±0.22	5.80±0.29
Scopolamine		2.62±0.22	4.92±0.33	2.97±0.19	5.23±0.30	3.93±0.24	5.69±0.32	3.03±0.22	5.62±0.28	4.32±0.71	6.16±0.30
PCP	2	2.29±0.13	4.52±0.37	3.07±0.29	6.12±0.43	2.88±0.31	5.74±0.46	2.82±0.29	5.59±0.47	2.84±0.24	5.36±0.46
Ketamine (10)		3.54±0.29	5.99±0.44	4.24±0.40	7.17±0.49	3.71±0.20	6.01±0.32	3.73±0.22	6.29±0.41	3.53±0.29	6.12±0.31
Ketamine (25)		2.63±0.26	4.17±0.47	3.21±0.22	5.61±0.35	3.48±0.24	6.42±0.49	3.54±0.20	6.41±0.31	3.62±0.26	5.93±0.28
Post-Surgery	3	1.86±0.13	3.20±0.26	1.97±0.10	4.06±0.27	2.08±0.11	4.33±0.27	2.00±0.15	4.37±0.24	2.49±0.15	4.61±0.34
Ketamine (1)		2.01±0.15	4.03±0.30	2.29±0.22	4.47±0.42	2.34±0.22	4.32±0.39	2.62±0.21	4.60±0.32	2.41±0.15	4.19±0.31
Infusions 1		2.14±0.24	4.33±0.38	2.43±0.27	4.89±0.37	3.02±0.30	5.69±0.41	2.54±0.25	5.19±0.36	2.32±0.20	4.99±0.34
CP-101,606 infusion: low		2.61±0.21	5.16±0.35	2.70±0.19	5.54±0.42	2.84±0.21	5.44±0.29	2.82±0.19	5.68±0.88	2.49±0.18	5.57±0.34
CP-101,606 infusion: high		2.55±0.20	5.03±0.36	2.81±0.28	5.54±0.45	2.83±0.28	5.63±0.40	2.88±0.20	5.80±0.42	2.89±0.15	5.57±0.21

Behavioural data are presented as mean ± SEM. Drug studies are listed in chronological order for each cohort. Ketamine doses are listed in brackets.

**Table S4** – Data for accuracy for baseline weeks between drug studies from the JBT.

Drug	Cohort	Accuracy									
		Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5	
		HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT
Memantine	1	96.2±0.80	79.5±1.40	96.1±0.91	84.8±1.31	97.2±1.00	84.8±1.10	97.8±0.44	83.1±1.83	96.4±1.28	82.4±1.30
MK-801		95.9±1.00	83.4±1.27	95.3±1.22	85.4±2.06	96.9±0.76	86.7±1.11	97.5±0.80	86.0±1.38	97.7±0.51	88.8±1.08
Lanicemine		97.3±0.60	86.4±1.82	98.8±0.48	88.4±1.48	98.0±0.56	88.9±1.68	98.8±0.43	87.9±1.61	96.8±0.69	82.4±1.44
CP-101,606: low		95.8±1.49	82.3±1.25	97.8±0.65	87.8±1.69	98.5±0.42	88.4±1.31	98.2±0.62	90.1±1.49	98.6±0.46	89.3±1.34
CP-101,606: high		97.6±0.73	84.6±1.75	98.0±0.72	86.8±2.04	97.7±0.93	90.2±1.40	97.9±0.56	89.8±1.79	98.6±0.48	88.9±1.09
Scopolamine		97.5±0.57	85.6±1.79	98.3±0.66	86.6±1.70	96.3±1.20	87.8±1.93	98.0±0.57	86.3±1.33	97.1±0.64	87.1±1.22
PCP	2	91.0±3.68	79.3±2.05	93.8±2.03	81.5±2.56	97.1±1.48	82.1±2.07	97.8±1.01	81.6±1.87	96.6±1.78	80.9±2.86
Ketamine (10)		97.3±0.94	82.4±3.36	98.6±0.57	85.9±2.46	99.5±0.35	85.5±1.60	98.9±0.58	85.0±1.86	98.9±0.57	86.7±1.12
Ketamine (25)		93.5±3.66	79.6±3.50	98.1±0.88	84.5±3.28	97.0±1.08	86.5±2.18	98.7±0.79	87.8±1.76	97.6±1.19	85.1±2.23
Post-Surgery	3	92.2±1.47	70.4±1.73	94.9±1.11	85.4±1.75	95.1±1.13	84.9±1.45	93.2±1.29	87.8±1.64	93.1±1.68	86.6±1.93
Ketamine (1)		93.0±2.98	79.1±3.42	93.6±3.03	85.0±2.66	94.2±3.06	86.1±2.62	91.9±2.03	82.1±1.22	93.0±1.45	81.6±1.76
Infusions 1		96.3±1.22	81.7±2.50	96.7±0.89	83.6±2.10	96.0±0.80	86.6±2.23	96.9±0.79	88.6±1.78	96.7±0.45	84.7±1.24
CP-101,606 infusion: low		97.3±0.66	86.8±1.56	94.8±1.41	87.1±1.90	96.7±1.20	85.3±1.92	97.9±0.88	86.2±2.18	95.8±0.98	86.1±2.45
CP-101,606 infusion: high		96.9±0.79	83.6±1.89	96.5±0.90	82.3±1.81	98.0±0.77	84.5±0.90	97.3±0.74	87.0±1.63	97.0±0.81	85.4±1.58

Behavioural data are presented as mean ± SEM. Drug studies are listed in chronological order for each cohort. Ketamine doses are listed in brackets.

**Table S5** – Data for omissions for baseline weeks between drug studies from the JBT.

Omissions											
Drug	Cohort	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5	
		HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT	HT	LT
Memantine	1	0.00±0.00	2.57±0.86	0.66±0.32	2.55±0.82	0.26±0.18	3.84±0.86	0.00±0.00	3.86±1.10	0.42±0.30	4.32±0.96
MK-801		1.36±0.70	3.91±0.95	0.84±0.41	6.30±1.60	0.93±0.43	3.30±1.16	0.68±0.43	2.64±0.93	0.32±0.22	3.93±1.18
Lanicemine		0.38±0.28	1.98±0.52	0.00±0.00	3.13±1.08	0.13±0.13	2.44±0.82	0.28±0.19	3.94±1.17	0.27±0.18	4.34±0.97
CP-101,606: low		0.87±0.44	3.61±1.02	0.53±0.24	3.18±1.03	0.27±0.27	2.50±0.73	0.38±0.27	1.07±0.34	0.14±0.14	3.98±1.05
CP-101,606: high		0.77±0.37	5.77±1.53	0.26±0.17	4.48±1.00	0.24±0.24	4.03±1.14	0.52±0.29	3.67±1.13	0.26±0.18	3.52±0.90
Scopolamine		0.40±0.29	3.10±0.94	0.00±0.00	3.55±0.95	0.26±0.18	3.90±0.75	0.13±0.13	5.07±1.26	0.89±0.45	5.77±1.16
PCP	2	0.97±0.64	3.32±1.35	0.87±0.58	8.05±2.58	0.25±0.25	6.51±2.19	0.54±0.36	5.07±2.04	0.84±0.51	5.87±1.18
Ketamine (10)		0.00±0.00	5.28±1.91	0.54±0.36	7.75±1.90	0.00±0.00	5.35±0.85	0.28±0.28	6.62±2.37	0.00±0.00	3.49±0.89
Ketamine (25)		0.85±0.59	6.00±2.17	0.00±0.00	5.71±1.89	0.81±0.57	4.68±1.46	0.26±0.26	4.89±1.66	0.27±0.27	8.32±2.21
Post-Surgery	3	0.91±0.40	3.50±0.99	0.53±0.44	3.28±0.89	0.64±0.42	2.25±0.41	0.52±0.23	2.87±0.68	0.42±0.23	2.76±0.77
Ketamine (1)		0.00±0.00	5.95±1.94	0.14±0.14	2.03±0.64	0.07±0.07	2.17±0.63	0.13±0.13	3.32±0.68	0.27±0.19	2.33±0.55
Infusions 1		0.00±0.00	3.96±1.43	0.35±0.24	3.17±1.42	0.19±0.19	5.58±1.46	0.00±0.00	3.24±1.24	0.14±0.14	4.12±1.85
CP-101,606 infusion: low		0.16±0.16	4.14±0.90	0.48±0.25	3.53±0.95	0.54±0.37	3.94±1.07	0.16±0.16	5.07±1.26	0.00±0.00	5.01±1.01
CP-101,606 infusion: high		0.83±0.67	4.82±1.41	0.33±0.22	4.01±1.16	0.65±0.37	4.86±1.15	0.16±0.16	4.29±1.28	0.54±0.37	4.25±0.98

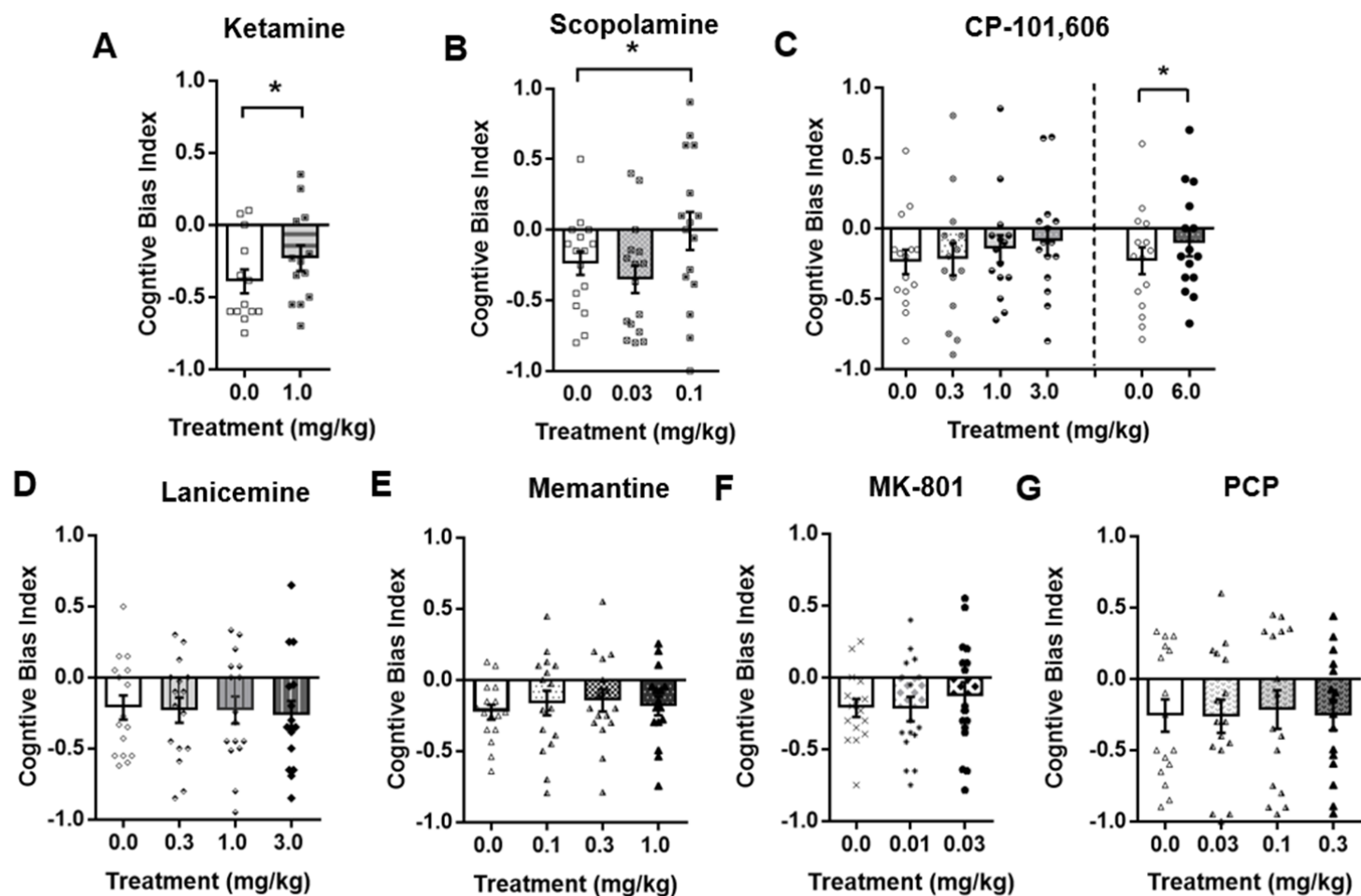
Behavioural data are presented as mean ± SEM. Drug studies are listed in chronological order for each cohort. Ketamine doses are listed in brackets.

**Table S6** – Data for premature responding for baseline weeks between drug studies from the JBT.

Premature						
Drug	Cohort	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Memantine	1	7.71±1.56	6.38±0.97	6.19±0.90	7.02±0.83	6.30±0.73
MK-801		8.03±1.00	6.57±0.69	5.77±1.13	5.76±0.84	5.56±1.01
Lanicemine		6.38±0.81	5.60±0.83	5.57±0.93	5.03±0.71	8.72±1.37
CP-101,606: low		6.58±1.06	5.13±0.91	4.21±0.48	6.07±0.95	4.00±0.69
CP-101,606: high		5.05±0.63	4.91±0.77	3.62±0.79	4.26±0.560	3.41±0.46
Scopolamine		5.81±1.15	4.71±0.83	4.05±0.72	3.26±0.62	4.80±0.91
PCP	2	5.81±1.20	4.39±0.95	2.73±0.94	3.86±1.13	4.17±0.49
Ketamine (10)		12.0±2.15	6.55±1.62	3.66±0.96	3.13±0.49	3.44±0.88
Ketamine (25)		11.76±1.39	6.20±1.24	5.25±0.98	6.45±1.09	6.84±1.73
Post-Surgery	3	39.4±3.86	19.9±2.16	14.1±1.88	13.8±1.98	13.0±1.89
Ketamine (1)		14.0±4.41	11.8±3.03	12.3±3.00	13.0±1.89	12.3±2.00
Infusions 1		11.2±1.98	6.27±0.74	6.46±1.11	7.26±1.25	6.58±1.64
CP-101,606 infusion: low		6.74±0.87	6.39±1.03	4.86±0.82	4.89±0.80	5.86±0.98
CP-101,606 infusion: high		5.31±0.76	3.85±0.72	5.38±0.78	4.98±1.00	4.35±0.75

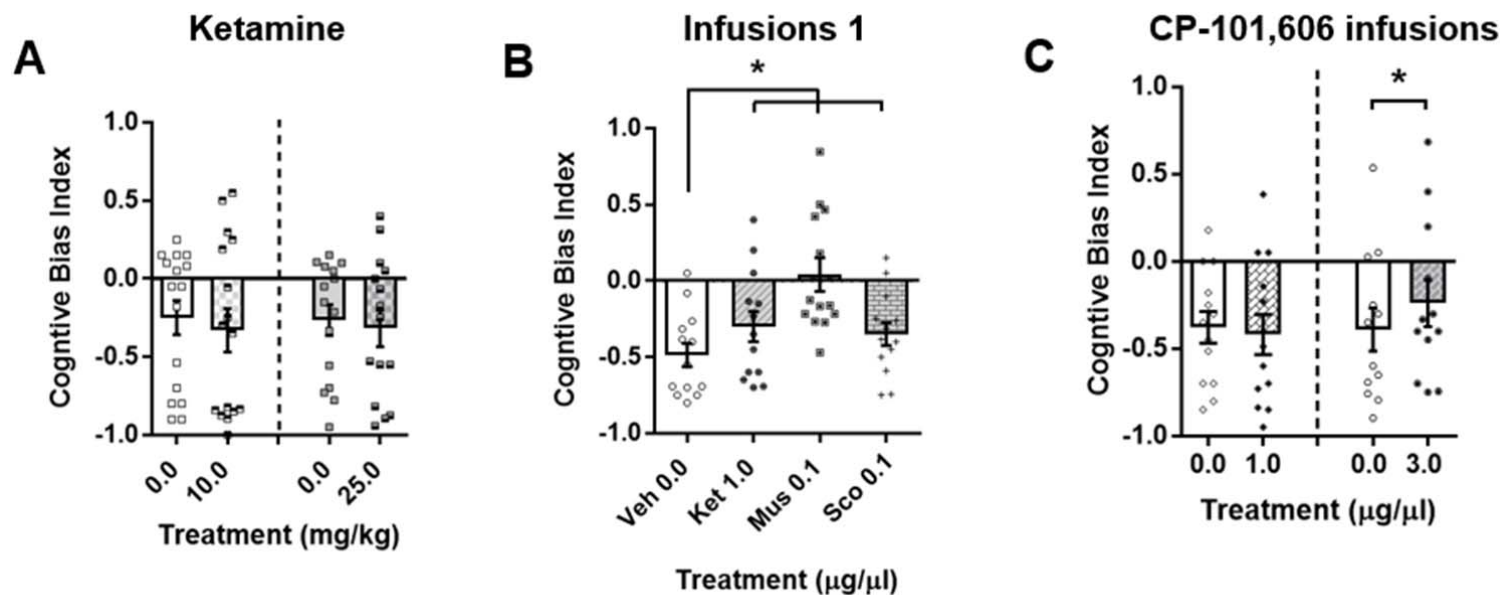
Behavioural data are presented as mean ± SEM. Drug studies are listed in chronological order for each cohort. Ketamine doses are listed in brackets.





**Figure S1** – The effect of acute treatment with rapid acting antidepressant drugs and NMDA receptor antagonists on judgement bias of the midpoint ambiguous tone displayed as CBI.

This figure shows data from Figure 1 displayed as cognitive bias index (CBI) scores. Ketamine (0.0, 1.0 mg/kg; n = 13), scopolamine (0.0, 0.03, 0.1 mg/kg; n = 16), CP-101,606 (Expt 1: 0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0 mg/kg, n = 15; Expt 2: 0.0, 6.0 mg/kg, n = 15), lanicemine (0.0, 0.3, 1.0, 3.0 mg/kg; n = 16), memantine (0.0, 0.1, 0.3, 1.0 mg/kg; n = 16) and MK-801 (0.0, 0.01, 0.03 mg/kg; n = 16) were administered acutely by intraperitoneal injection prior to testing on the judgement bias task. (A) Replicating previous studies, ketamine (1.0 mg/kg) caused CBI to shift in the positive direction. (B) Scopolamine (0.1 mg/kg) changed CBI scores to near zero, a positive shift. (C) CBI became moved in a positive direction after a 6.0 mg/kg dose of CP-101,606. (D-G) Lanicemine, memantine, MK-801 and low doses of PCP did not alter CBI for the midpoint tone at the doses tested. Data shown and represent mean  $\pm$  SEM (bars and error bars) overlaid with individual data points for each rat. Dashed line (panel C) indicates separate, counterbalanced experiments. \* $p < 0.05$ . CP-101,606, ketamine, lanicemine, memantine, PCP: 60 min pre-treatment; scopolamine, MK-801: 30 min pre-treatment.



**Figure S2** – The effect of acute treatment with high doses of ketamine, and mPFC infusions of rapid acting antidepressants on judgement bias of the midpoint ambiguous tone displayed as CBI.

This figure shows data from Figures 2-4 displayed as cognitive bias index (CBI) scores. (A) From Figure 2: ketamine (Expt 1: 0.0, 10.0 mg/kg,  $n = 16$ ; Expt 2: 0.0, 25.0 mg/kg,  $n = 16$ ) were administered by intraperitoneal injection to measure their effect on judgement bias. Neither dose had any effect on CBI. (B) From Figure 3: ) In the first infusion experiment, ketamine (Ket; 1.0 μg/μl) muscimol (Mus; 0.1 μg/μl), scopolamine (Sco; 0.1 μg/μl) or vehicle (Veh; 0.0 μg/μl;  $n = 13$ ), were administered by intracerebral infusion into the mPFC to measure the effect on judgement bias. All infusions caused positive changes in CBI. (C) From Figure 4: CP-101,606 (Expt 1: 0.0, 1.0 μg/μl,  $n = 13$ ; Expt 2: 0.0, 3.0 μg/μl,  $n = 12$ ) was administered by intracerebral infusion in the mPFC to measure the effect on judgement bias. Only the higher dose (3.0 μg/μl) caused CBI to become more positive. Data shown and represent mean ± SEM (bars and error bars) overlaid with individual data points for each rat. Dashed line (panel C) indicates separate, counterbalanced experiments. \* $p < 0.05$ . Ketamine (systemic): 60 min pre-treatment; infusions: 5 min pre-treatment.

**Table S7 – Data for behavioural measures from the JBT.**

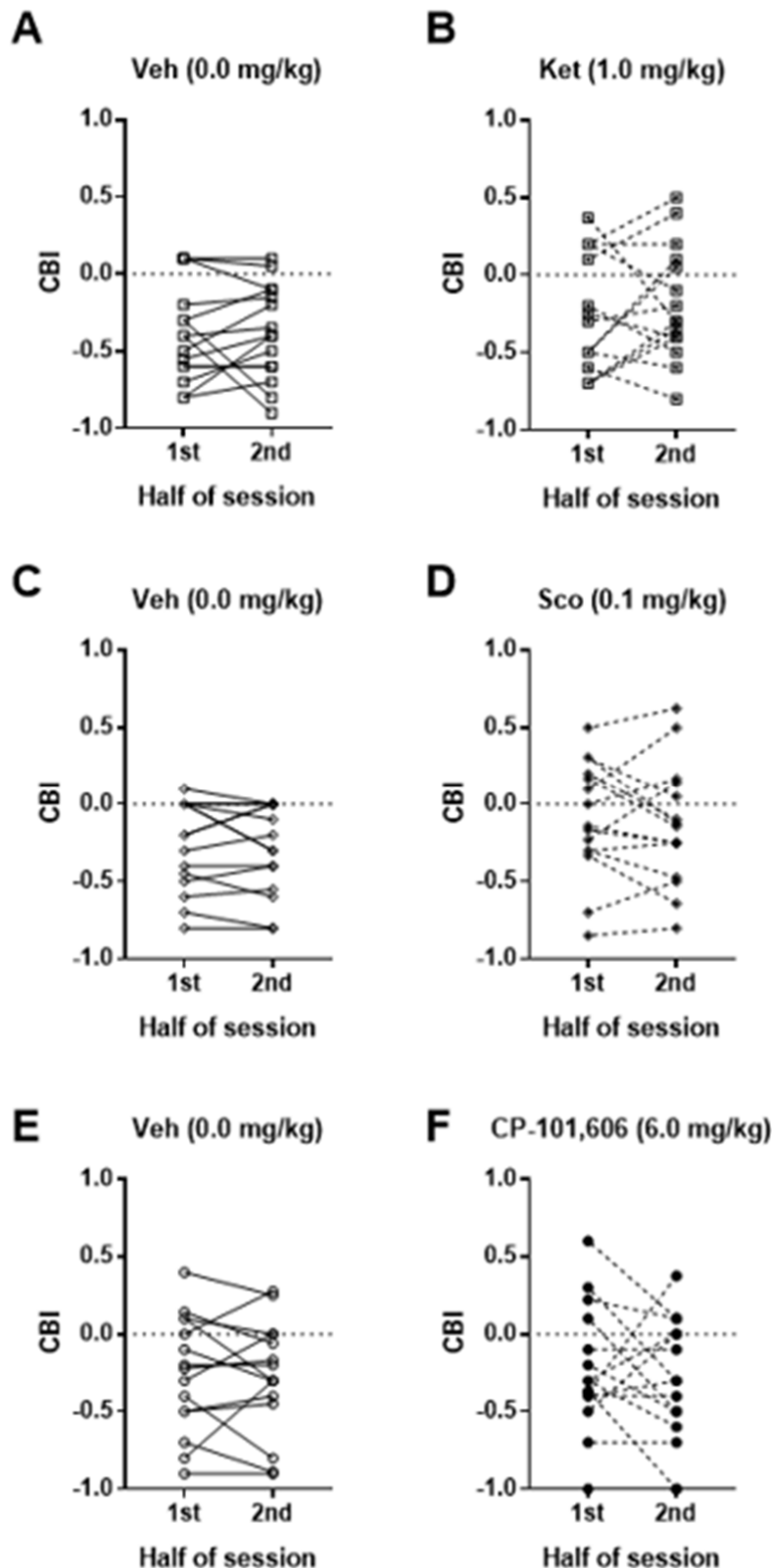
Drug / Session	Dose (mg/kg) / Week	Behavioural Measure								
		Response latency			% Accuracy		% Omissions			% Premature
		HT	MT	LT	HT	LT	HT	MT	LT	
Ketamine	0.0	1.62 ± 0.12	3.23 ± 0.22	3.80 ± 0.36	97.88 ± 0.62	83.06 ± 1.96	0.00 ± 0.00	0.58 ± 0.30	1.15 ± 0.36	12.44 ± 1.94
	1.0	1.77 ± 0.13	3.38 ± 0.29	4.05 ± 0.44	97.69 ± 9.57	83.54 ± 2.48	0.20 ± 0.20	0.38 ± 0.26	0.78 ± 0.34	14.09 ± 3.07
CP-101,606	0.0	2.19 ± 0.18	3.74 ± 0.39	4.26 ± 0.32	97.82 ± 0.77	84.87 ± 1.74	0.38 ± 0.26	0.88 ± 0.41	1.28 ± 0.55	8.34 ± 1.24
	0.3	2.43 ± 0.21	3.85 ± 0.36	4.54 ± 0.34	97.54 ± 0.91	85.44 ± 2.39	0.00 ± 0.00	0.82 ± 0.38	1.15 ± 0.47	7.42 ± 1.23
	1.0	2.21 ± 0.15	3.48 ± 0.26	4.46 ± 0.29	98.33 ± 0.72	83.49 ± 2.16	0.00 ± 0.00	0.69 ± 0.41	0.83 ± 0.47	8.80 ± 1.26
	3.0	*1.97 ± 0.17	*2.88 ± 0.23	*3.72 ± 0.27	95.83 ± 1.14	82.45 ± 2.62	0.00 ± 0.00	0.17 ± 0.17	0.33 ± 0.23	12.44 ± 2.58
CP-101,606	0.0	3.05 ± 0.24	4.52 ± 0.27	5.38 ± 0.33	98.25 ± 0.51	86.57 ± 1.70	0.70 ± 0.39	2.50 ± 0.82	2.81 ± 0.80	4.24 ± 2.58
	6.0	***2.32 ± 0.13	***3.52 ± 0.17	***4.10 ± 0.19	97.64 ± 0.87	84.37 ± 1.98	0.00 ± 0.00	**0.00 ± 0.00	**0.72 ± 0.32	**11.75 ± 1.80
Scopolamine	0.0	2.28 ± 0.17	3.84 ± 0.24	4.42 ± 0.31	97.80 ± 0.64	86.56 ± 1.84	0.16 ± 0.16	0.31 ± 0.21	1.09 ± 0.51	6.20 ± 0.70
	0.03	***4.10 ± 0.34	***5.52 ± 0.38	***6.51 ± 0.40	**99.50 ± 0.27	**94.01 ± 1.40	*7.17 ± 2.17	***17.18 ± 3.38	***18.02 ± 3.60	7.31 ± 1.55
	0.1	**4.26 ± 0.38	**5.54 ± 0.37	**6.27 ± 0.51	95.00 ± 1.76	85.26 ± 3.93	*22.85 ± 3.79	***27.98 ± 3.91	**35.92 ± 6.05	*14.52 ± 3.85
Lanicemine	0.0	2.42 ± 0.22	3.80 ± 0.31	4.72 ± 0.45	96.60 ± 0.82	86.24 ± 1.81	0.00 ± 0.00	3.16 ± 2.21	2.93 ± 1.89	7.17 ± 1.11
	0.3	2.23 ± 0.17	3.60 ± 0.24	4.40 ± 0.29	98.13 ± 0.63	85.01 ± 1.89	0.00 ± 0.00	0.31 ± 0.21	1.26 ± 0.95	9.48 ± 1.36
	1.0	2.40 ± 0.22	4.20 ± 0.32	4.79 ± 0.40	96.41 ± 1.58	85.45 ± 2.15	0.00 ± 0.00	3.54 ± 1.99	4.03 ± 2.76	6.68 ± 1.03
	3.0	2.55 ± 0.21	3.89 ± 0.28	4.81 ± 0.37	98.58 ± 0.57	86.74 ± 1.71	0.16 ± 0.16	1.56 ± 1.25	2.81 ± 1.72	8.18 ± 1.67
Memantine	0.0	2.38 ± 0.15	4.12 ± 0.21	4.94 ± 0.23	97.77 ± 0.60	83.96 ± 1.52	0.19 ± 0.19	1.16 ± 0.44	2.07 ± 1.03	7.98 ± 0.93
	0.1	2.48 ± 0.18	4.15 ± 0.23	4.65 ± 0.30	97.45 ± 0.82	84.75 ± 1.81	0.16 ± 0.16	2.30 ± 0.85	1.09 ± 0.45	8.45 ± 1.25
	0.3	2.42 ± 0.18	3.84 ± 0.25	4.53 ± 0.30	97.49 ± 0.65	81.21 ± 1.79	0.16 ± 0.16	0.63 ± 0.36	2.34 ± 0.84	9.25 ± 1.40
	1.0	2.40 ± 0.16	3.90 ± 0.23	4.50 ± 0.28	97.66 ± 0.58	84.98 ± 1.64	0.00 ± 0.00	1.56 ± 0.75	2.03 ± 1.25	8.38 ± 1.24
MK-801	0.0	2.51 ± 0.15	4.16 ± 0.28	4.72 ± 0.30	96.39 ± 1.00	85.23 ± 1.78	0.16 ± 0.16	1.12 ± 0.40	1.31 ± 0.54	6.66 ± 0.77
	0.01	2.25 ± 0.14	3.80 ± 0.21	4.39 ± 0.27	96.71 ± 0.78	83.05 ± 1.64	0.16 ± 0.16	0.47 ± 0.25	1.09 ± 0.51	8.39 ± 1.72
	0.03	*2.34 ± 0.13	*3.44 ± 0.29	*4.07 ± 0.35	97.19 ± 0.88	81.19 ± 2.15	0.00 ± 0.00	1.41 ± 0.56	1.88 ± 0.74	10.73 ± 1.64
PCP	0.0	2.23 ± 0.17	3.88 ± 0.23	4.96 ± 0.42	98.28 ± 0.50	84.89 ± 1.88	0.00 ± 0.00	0.47 ± 0.25	0.47 ± 0.34	6.46 ± 0.98
	0.03	2.22 ± 0.18	3.99 ± 0.29	5.11 ± 0.42	98.59 ± 0.56	87.44 ± 1.70	0.00 ± 0.00	1.25 ± 0.60	2.03 ± 1.08	5.72 ± 0.75
	0.1	2.25 ± 0.18	3.81 ± 0.29	4.60 ± 0.30	99.07 ± 0.31	86.37 ± 1.87	0.31 ± 0.21	0.94 ± 0.39	1.41 ± 0.94	5.63 ± 0.89
	0.3	2.24 ± 0.20	3.93 ± 0.37	4.99 ± 0.44	98.75 ± 0.51	86.78 ± 2.34	0.57 ± 0.57	1.34 ± 0.73	4.11 ± 1.70	6.77 ± 1.41
Pre-Surgery		2.05 ± 0.14	3.72 ± 0.22	4.47 ± 0.33	95.80 ± 0.69	83.07 ± 2.41	0.51 ± 0.30	1.50 ± 0.48	2.54 ± 0.77	14.80 ± 2.30
Post-Surgery	1	1.99 ± 0.15	3.82 ± 0.23	4.64 ± 0.36	95.89 ± 1.00	85.62 ± 1.95	0.00 ± 0.00	0.93 ± 0.31	2.18 ± 0.59	11.88 ± 1.53
	2	1.81 ± 0.12	3.81 ± 0.31	4.29 ± 0.44	97.17 ± 0.71	84.15 ± 1.45	0.17 ± 0.11	0.67 ± 0.24	2.25 ± 0.62	13.33 ± 1.44
	3	1.77 ± 0.16	3.43 ± 0.24	4.19 ± 0.40	96.58 ± 0.59	81.16 ± 2.43	0.08 ± 0.08	1.00 ± 0.28	1.25 ± 0.39	11.97 ± 1.70

Behavioural data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SEM. Cells marked in bold indicate a significant difference for that measure, for that tone (compared to vehicle 0.0 mg/kg session for that drug) from a significant dose\*tone interaction. Cells highlighted in grey indicate where a main effect of dose was found, indicating a difference for that drug treatment not specific to tone. \* / light grey shading:  $p < 0.05$ , \*\* / medium grey shading:  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* / dark grey shading:  $p < 0.001$ .

**Table S8 – Description of statistical analysis for other behavioural measures**

Behavioural measure	Analysed for:	Description	Statistical analysis
<b>Response latency</b>	Each tone	Time between presentation of the tone and response on the lever (correct lever for high and low reward tones, either lever for midpoint tone)	Two-way repeated measures ANOVA with tone and session as within-subjects factors
<b>Accuracy</b>	Reference tones (high and low tones)	Number of correct responses made divided by the total number of responses made (correct + incorrect) for that tone	
<b>Percentage omissions</b>	Each tone	Number of trials where no lever press occurred during 20 s tone presentation divided by total completed trials for that tone	
<b>Percentage of premature responses</b>	Whole session	Number of trials where a response was made in the 5 s inter-trial interval divided by total completed trials	Repeated measures ANOVA with session as the within-subjects factor

This table details the other behavioural measures (apart from cognitive bias index) that were analysed for each experimental manipulation and are presented in Table 1. ANOVA – analysis of variance.



**Figure S3 – CBI**  
*analysed by session*  
*split in half for*  
*systemic drugs that*  
*caused a positive*  
*change in bias.*

Ketamine (0.0, 1.0 mg/kg;  $n = 13$ ), scopolamine (0.0, 0.03, 0.1 mg/kg;  $n = 16$ ), CP-101,606 (Expt 2: 0.0, 6.0 mg/kg,  $n = 15$ ) were administered acutely by intraperitoneal injection prior to testing on the judgement bias task. Data from these drug studies for doses that showed a positive change in judgement bias (ketamine: 1.0 mg/kg; scopolamine: 0.1 mg/kg) and CP-101,606: 6.0 mg/kg) were re-analysed by splitting each session in half, and comparing CBI for the first and last half of the sessions. Vehicle doses for each drug (panels A,C,E) are also shown for comparison. There is no consistent change between CBI scores across the first and second halves of a session for the drugs shown. Data shown are individual data points, linked for each individual rat.